

## Changes to Surrey Arts teaching weeks

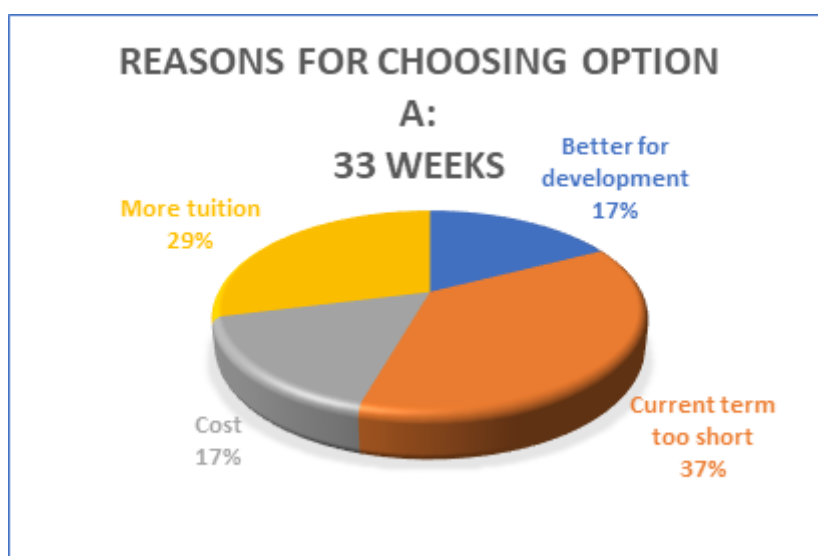
Dear School Colleagues

We recently consulted with our customers, teachers and stakeholders about music tuition fees for 2022/23 with two proposals:

- Option 1 – to increase teaching/delivery weeks annually from 30 to 33.
- Option 2 – to increase lesson tuition fees by 5% and retain the 30-week delivery model.

There were 899 respondents to the consultation which represented 20.56% of Surrey Arts customers.

75.97% were in favour of moving to a 33-week teaching model with the main reasons being:



Based on these results we have made the decision to implement this change and move to a 33 week teaching programme for peripatetic lessons from September 2022. The weeks will be spread across three terms as follows:

- Autumn term: 12 weeks: w/c 12<sup>th</sup> September – w/c 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- Spring term: 10 weeks: w/c 9<sup>th</sup> January – w/c/ 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Summer term 11 weeks: w/c 17<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 (Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July week 11)

This decision has enabled the service not to increase the cost of each lesson and improve the provision for young musicians. The benefits of increasing to 33 weeks of lessons will mean more contact time with tutors, reducing long gaps between terms.

We hope that you will support us with this decision, providing teaching space for the additional weeks proposed. We will be in communication with you to identify any INSET days or other scheduled events that may impact the delivery of lessons and make alternative arrangements to

deliver the proposed weeks. If a teacher is unable to deliver all the lessons in the term, then parents/carers will be refunded/ credited for the missed lessons.

Surrey Arts recognise that it is a very difficult time financially for many families. We want to ensure that all young musicians can continue learning. In order to help, we have several financial assistance schemes, including an option to help spread the costs. These include:

- **Surrey Arts Payment Plans** – Paying for music lessons at the start of a term is a big outlay. Parents and carers can spread the cost in staged instalments. Details of how to set these up will be sent out with invoices to parents/carers.
- **More group lessons** – Group lessons are less expensive than individual lessons, so can provide an alternative and a more cost-effective option.
- **Financial support for low-income families** – Surrey Arts already offers support for families in receipt of Free School Meals, Young Carers and Looked After Children. In addition, there are organisations such as The Cheryl King Trust, Pilgrims Trust and Awards for Young Musicians, that can offer financial support, as well as others that are listed on the Surrey Music Hub website under funding and support for parents [Funding and support - Surrey Music Hub](#).

If you have any questions, please email [surreyarts@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surreyarts@surreycc.gov.uk)

We thank you for your continued support of Surrey Arts and wish you all a very restful summer break.



Sarah Lee  
Head of Service  
Surrey Arts