

Parent, Carer, Musician

How can I support my child's musical learning at home?



- 1) **YouTube:** Preston Manor's award winning Music Department has a well-established YouTube channel which as well as providing a platform for us to showcase videos from concerts and other events also contains short tutorials for the pieces that are learnt in Key Stage 3 music lessons. These often take the form of a close up of a performer's hands on an instrument, usually a keyboard or a glockenspiel – this will help students see which notes to play and where to place their fingers. The videos also contain helpful advice on how to avoid common mistakes and serve as a WAGOLL – What A Good One Looks Like. The Department's channel is called **K C Crawley** and the tutorial videos are always labelled with family learning in the title e.g. PRESTON MANOR MUSIC: Family Learning - Year 7 'Instruments of the Orchestra'. We often set watching these videos as homework in the run up to assessment lessons which usually take place the week before a school holiday e.g. a half term.



- 2) **Smartphones and Tablets:** whilst we understand that not all students have access to musical instruments at home for a range of reasons technology can be helpful. Downloading a piano app (which can be found free of charge on iTunes or Play Store) on a tablet computer or smart phone can be a very useful to help students to prepare. Whilst not providing quite the true physical sensation associated with playing a 'real' musical keyboard it can certainly help with finding the notes and getting them in the correct order.



- 3) **Regular preparation:** high achievement in music is often linked to regular preparation. You can help at home, particularly in the run up to an in class assessment by helping students to establish a routine. For example whilst the family meal is being prepared encourage your son or daughter to view our YouTube channel or practise using an app. Little and often is the key to success. 15 minutes a day will have a measurably positive impact on students' sense of achievement in music lessons.



- 4) **The Future:** Preston Manor School offers a broad and balanced musical curriculum including 'opted for' lessons in Year 9 and GCSE Music. Examples of student work can be found by accessing the Department's SoundCloud platform which is called **Preston Manor Music**. Here you can listen to examples of original student compositions from Year 9, 11, 12 and 13.