***THE NATIONAL YOUTH BRASS BANDS OF SCOTLAND***

14 Cardhu Crescent

Trinity Park

Kilmarnock

KA3 1QX

MAY 2017

Dear players, families and supporters,

I trust this finds you well, looking forward to the summer holidays and the NYBBS summer course 2017. We have certainly been busy preparing and finalising our programme of events for the course which takes place in Strathallan School, Forgandenny, Perth PH2 9EG from Sunday 23rd July-Saturday 24th July 2017 inclusive.

To assist with any queries you may have at this stage please find enclosed a list of key personnel and contact details below:

Course Administrator –Rachel Neil (nybbs.sbba@gmail.com)

Course CPO/student bank/concert tickets- Tom Allan (tom.allan42@gmail.com)

Finance (course fees/ enquiries)–Julie Sanderson (sbbatreasurer@gmail.com)

Education Officer (applications) – John Boax (johnboax14@gmail.com)

The team will be happy to assist you and answer any queries you may have. Enquires of a more general nature can always be sent to myself at carrieboax14@gmail.com

**Check in**

We have reviewed our check in procedures and in consultation with Strathallan school, have revised our check in system for this year. Please be aware that all students cannot be accommodated at the one time and therefore we request that all players aged 14 plus (Reserve/Senior Band members) arrive **before** our **Children’s band members.** This means that auditions and accommodation for our older players can be organised before our younger members arrive and all of our pastoral staff will be on hand to assist. Please therefore note the following times and arrange to arrive on Sunday 23rd July at the time stated below:

11am- All **Reserve** and **Senior Band players** to arrive at Simpson House, check in and allocate accommodation.

1pm- Students meet in Dining Room for Lunch and welcome meeting.

2-4pm- Seating Auditions for both Senior and Reserve Bands

4pm- All **Children’s Band** players to arrive at Ruthven House, check in and allocate accommodation and complete seating auditions.

6pm- All bands to dining room for evening meal.

7pm- First rehearsal, all bands (and welcome meeting for Children’s band.)

**Timetable**

In the course of the week we will also be visited by over 20 of the finest, most experienced musicians all who share a love of music and are involved in the brass band scene both here and abroad. For those of you new to the course, each day will consist of both working in small sections with your designated tutor for the week and full band rehearsals. Please ensure you come full of energy and prepared to play as your working day will begin at 9am and will end later on in the evening- don’t worry, lots of breaks and social activities will ensure you enjoy your time whilst working hard! (A daily timetable will be emailed nearer the time.)

Our program of activities include swimming, rounders, treasure hunts, movie nights, football, ‘NYBBS got talent!’(come prepared!) and weather permitting, a BBQ! For some of the events you will need to provide your own equipment/props (talent show items, etc.) swimming caps (these can also be reserved from Tom Allan for a small fee in advance; please email him if you require one) and you will also need your **own** music stand and a piece of suitable music to play for your seating audition (the position where you will sit in the band.) PLEASE NOTE: **For those of you who have expressed an interest to audition for the senior band, meeting the required standard, a separate email will be sent next month from Rachel Neil to advise you of the time that this will take place on the first day of the course.** Whilst percussion will be provided, the players themselves must bring sticks and mallets. *It is advisable that all personal belongings are clearly labeled for safe return, as we cannot be held responsible if items are left behind.*

**Accommodation**

We are very lucky at Strathallan this year to be able to use three boarding houses for the duration of our stay. This means that all students in the Children’s Band will be accommodated separately and there will be 1 adult member of our pastoral team for every 8 children. Each House has single rooms for students, with separate toileting and shower facilities. All of the houses have several common rooms with games, TV’s and with some even hosting pool and table tennis facilities. The dining area is in a separate building and all students will come together at breakfast, lunch and evening meal times. We will run our own bank and organise supper in the houses for the students- please bring your own mug if a hot drink is preferred at this time and should you wish tuck money to be looked after by ourselves please contact Tom Allan in advance to arrange this.

**Publicity and consent**

Group and individual photographs will be taken on Monday afternoon during free time. Should you wish any specific shots (EG family, band, school, section groups,) please let Rachel Neil know **before** Friday 30th June. Consent forms and Gift Aid forms attached to this email should be also forwarded to Rachel by Friday 30th June. Rachel will also be utilising social media before the event and during week to promote the course and events taking place- should you have anything you wished shared on our Facebook, twitter or website or indeed have any ideas regarding our publicity, please do not hesitate to get in touch with her. Photographs taken will be on sale at the end of course concerts- should you wish to reserve any in advance please contact Tom Allan for further information.

**Course Fees**

Please note that no payment can be accepted on the day. **The deadline for all payments is Friday 30th June- please contact Julie Sanderson regarding any payment query you may have.** Julie will provide all players with areceipt when full payment is made that should be brought with you to check in on Sunday 23rd July.

Finally, following evaluation and feedback from students and staff, just a reminder that **two** concerts will be held this year. Our Children’s Band concert will take place in the Chapel at Strathallan School on Saturday 29th July at 2pm and our evening concert involving our Reserve and Senior Band will take place in St John’s Kirk Perth at 7pm. All players and any children of primary school age will receive a free wristband ticket, allowing entry to both concerts. Tickets can be purchased in advance at a cost of £5 (afternoon) and £8 (evening) or a ***combi deal*** for both concerts is available for £10- please note, these should be reserved in advance from Tom Allan. Payment can then be sent to Julie Sanderson and tickets can be posted prior to the event. This will ensure a speedy entry to the venues and prompt start and finish after what will be for our students a very tiring but extremely rewarding week.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any queries you may have at this stage. I will be in contact again next month with a finalised timetable and any further information you may require. In the meantime, keep banding and enjoying making music!

Carrie Boax

President/events manager

sbba.org.uk