

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

14 Cardhu Crescent

Trinity Park

Kilmarnock

KA3 1QX

June 2018

Dear players, families and supporters,

I trust this finds you well and looking forward to the summer holidays and the NYBBS summer course 2018. 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 22nd July-Saturday 28th July 2018.

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 - Tom Allan (tom.allan42@gmail.com)

Finance(fees/concert tickets)–Julie Sanderson Nicol (sbbatreasurer@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, we have revised our check in system for this year. Students in our Reserve and Children’s Band should arrive mid morningand all of our pastoral staff will be on hand to assist. Please therefore note the following times and arrange to arrive on Sunday 22nd July at the time stated below:

11am- All Reserve and Children’s 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

5.30pm- Both bands to dining room for evening meal.

6.30pm- First rehearsal for both bands.

**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 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 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 to take part!) 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) and you will also need your own **music stand** and a piece of **suitable music** to play for your seating audition (i.e. where you will sit in the band.) 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.

**Accommodation**

We are very lucky at Strathallan this year to be able to use three boarding houses for the duration of our stay. However as we have a waiting list for places on the course, every bed has been allocated and we aim to ensure 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, will 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, (i.e. family or home band photos) please let Rachel Neil know **before** Friday 29th June. Consent forms attached to this email should be also forwarded to Rachel **by Friday 29th 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 Nicol 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 the day. NYBBS ties for the concert and other merchandise will be available to purchase at registration however should you wish to purchase a NYBBS t shirt or hoodie please get in touch with **Sara Buchan of Sovereign Embroidery**, who can be contacted at sovemb@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

Finally in celebration of sixty years of our National Youth Brass Bands, we will be hosting a series of concerts at the end of our summer courses. Our Children and Band concert will take place in Strathallan School theatre on Saturday 28th July with a further concert hosted by our Reserve Band at later that day in Strathallan School Theatre. The exact timings of the afternoon concerts have yet to be confirmed, however we envisage that both concerts with be finished by 5.30pm.  *Please note this year, no tickets will need to be purchased for any of our three NYBBS summer course concerts in advance, they will be available at the door on the day of the concert- further information regarding our concerts will be sent nearer the time. Please also note members of NYBBS 2018 are entitled to free entry to the concerts.*

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 finalised timetable and any further information you may require. In the meantime, keep banding and enjoying making music!

**Carrie Boax**

*SBBA President/NYBBS Course Director*

*Website: sbba.org.uk*