
Fingal Academy of Music

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*FAO: Principal Helena Trench,
Powerstown Educate Together National School,
Powerstown Road, Tyrrelstown,
Dublin 15*

Dear Helena,

I hope you are very well. I wanted to take the time to fill you in on the ukulele classes taking place in Powerstown ETNS, supported by Fingal Arts. This week is Fergus' third week delivering the classes to all six classes in your school.

I have to say that the students in Powerstown ETNS have behaved in an exemplary fashion, and the teachers have been an absolute pleasure for us to work with.

Report on Classes

The plan for each class in the first week was to familiarise each child with the instrument itself, learning the names of the strings and understanding the concept of chordal harmony. Each child learned the chord of C major.

In week two, the classes moved on a bit and learned about the difference between rhythm and pulse. Ronan, Shauna and Ailish's classes were fit to learn the chord of A minor. Each class did more singing this week, learning the value of listening to each other and accompanying themselves on ukulele.

In week three, Fergus has continued to push on with listening games, ensemble singing activities and ways to implement ideas of rhythm and pulse. He had planned to teach the chord of G major. However, most of the classes were unable to perfect C major, A minor and G major in this time. The goal for the kids is to learn C major, A minor, G major and F major by Hallowe'en. This will equip them with more than enough to learn countless songs.

The final performance is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 4 December. I will send you another update before Hallowe'en on the classes' progress.

Photography

Can we ask about photography during lessons for Fingal Academy of Music use? This will help us in reporting to Fingal County Council. Of course, I understand the potential issues with

photography and videos in the classroom, so I await your advice on this. Photography would also aid Fergus with his lesson planning, given how many kids he is teaching on Tuesdays.

Fergus has noticed that the teachers who really get on board with the lesson see the best results in the class. It would be wonderful to have full engagement from each teacher. Do you have any suggestions as to how the kids might get access to the ukuleles the rest of the week? Fergus tells us that some of the teachers have already been trying to make this happen.

Video Tutorials

Fingal Academy of Music has developed guitar tutorial videos for use in Powerstown ETNS. Shauna will receive a private YouTube link today, so hopefully these can be distributed to all teachers. Ideally, the students can watch the video at home in order to do guided practise.

Other queries

As you know, I have been speaking with Shauna and Ann about running after-school music classes. In 45-minute sessions especially for PETNS students, kids can attend a free supervised practise session with Fergus. We are also offering tuition in a variety of instruments, including voice, guitar and woodwind, on Thursdays for students of Powerstown ETNS.

Finally, the Professional Training & Development (PTD) sessions that we have discussed will provisionally take place on the following dates:

- Wed 17 Oct @ 2:30pm-3:30pm - *Preparing for a school musical performance*
- Wed 7 Nov @ 2:30pm-3:30pm - *Teaching music notation*
- Wed 21 Nov @ 2:30pm-3:30pm - *Using an instrument in the classroom*

Please let me know if you have any questions about this. Thanks again for all your cooperation in bringing music to the students of Powerstown ETNS.

Yours sincerely,

Dónal Kearney

Managing Director

Fingal Academy of Music

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