

P O Box 116
Alresford
Hants
SO24 0YN

Musical Director: Lissa Gray
Administrator: Kim Reffell

Tel: 07894 021279
E mail: info.nccgb@virgin.net

18th February 2008

Dear Parents

NCCGB Main (Non-Tour) Choir, Spring 2008

Thank you for registering your child for the National Children's Choir Spring course at Frensham Heights School. I hope that you will find the following items helpful:

1. Finding Frensham Heights School

A map showing the location of Frensham Heights is available on their website, www.frensham-heights.org.uk, or via a link from our website. If you do not have access to the internet, please let me know and I will post you a copy.

2. Course registration

A slight change from previous times given: Registration will take place **2.30 – 4.00 p.m.**, in the Ballroom of the Main Building. There will be refreshments available in the Long Gallery outside the Ballroom.

3. Mobile phones

All mobile phones are handed in at registration, and it is helpful if phones are clearly labelled in advance, with your child's first name and surname. 'Phone time' will again be 6.40-6.55 p.m.

4. Contact forms

I enclose a Contact Form for completion. This may either be posted back to me with the Personal Information form, or brought on the day (there will be spare blank forms available!) Please note that the contact form states that previous medical information supplied still applies; if you need to complete a new Medical Questionnaire, please let me know and I will send one out to you.

5. Personal Information Form

Children are individuals, and may have fears or problems that they do not feel able to tell us about (for example, fear of the dark, sleepwalking); if there is any information that you can give us regarding your child which will help us to make their stay happier, please use this form to tell us about it. The information will remain confidential, and the form will only need to be renewed if you feel this is appropriate. Special dietary needs are also covered by this form; it is essential that we tell the catering staff in advance of any allergies or intolerances, so that they can stock accordingly. The form must be returned by 1st March.

6. Kit List

I enclose our usual kit list. There are no indoor swimming facilities at Frensham, but tennis is available. Please note that for this course it will not be necessary to bring formal concert clothes.

7. End of course recital

There will be a small informal recital on the last day of the course, Saturday 5th April, in the Frensham Heights School Performing Arts Centre, 1.30 – 2.00 p.m.

8. Birmingham Symphony Hall concert

There has been a change of plan regarding the Birmingham Symphony Hall concert on Saturday 19th April. Several new Main Choir members have shown so much enthusiasm for joining with the Tour Choir on this occasion, we have decided to make it available to the whole Main Choir. They will work on the music during their course at Frensham Heights, and will then be able, if they wish, to come to Birmingham. Arrangements are as follows:

Choir members are to report to the stage door at 1.00 p.m. They will work with the Tour Choir and other choirs during the afternoon, and will be free for you to collect them at (approximately) 5.00 p.m., when there will be a one hour break for relaxation and supper. Choir members then return to Birmingham Symphony Hall at 6.00 p.m., to prepare for the concert.

For those children taking part, choir uniforms will be fitted at Frensham Heights, and must be taken home at the end of the course. These uniforms must be brought to the Symphony Hall at 1.00 p.m., hanging up in a named clothing bag, together with their other uniform items (a list is attached.) All uniform must be pressed and ready to wear, as I will not have access to an iron at that point.

At the end of the concert, the choir members will change out of their uniforms and hand them in before being collected by their parents. It has been estimated that the concert will finish at about 10.00 p.m.; this is subject to confirmation.

Please e mail me as soon as possible, by March 1st at the latest, to let me know whether your son/daughter will be taking part, so that I may organise uniforms accordingly. I will also be able to give you information about tickets for the concert.

9. Bebo

Some of our older choir members have set up a National Children's Choir page on Bebo. Whilst we are very happy that they want to keep in touch between courses, this must not be done under the choir's registered name. We have contacted Bebo to ask them to close the page. Please could all parents speak to their children about this, and make sure it does not happen again.

10. Second course payment

Just a reminder that the second payment for the course, £255, was due by 15th February.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Reffell
Administrator