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14th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to make you aware of an exciting pilot programme that our Year 8 boys have been invited to participate in. **Drum Role** is a brand-new music-based programme that uses drumming, movement and group collaboration to support boys in building confidence, communication skills and positive social identity. The project offers a practical way for boys to explore emotions, connect with others and experience themselves as part of a supportive community. This is not a music lesson in the traditional sense. Music is used as a tool for human development, not as a technical skill to be mastered.

#### **Who will run the sessions?**

The sessions will be run by two internationally renowned musicians – Yaron Engler and Ollier Tunner. Mr Belleve, from our Pastoral Team, will also be joining the sessions.

**Yaron Engler** is a musician, performer and facilitator with three decades of experience working across performance, education and community projects. He has toured internationally with leading dance and theatre companies including Hofesh Shechter and Rambert's Peaky Blinders and brings this professional experience directly into his work with young people in schools. Yaron has led large scale community projects around the world and given a TEDx talk on creativity and connection. His sessions use drumming and music as tools for confidence, emotional expression, teamwork and focus, drawing on his experience facilitating men's groups and the CROP Cycle framework. Participants frequently comment on Yaron's ability to create a safe, engaging space where people feel seen, heard and motivated.

**Ollie Tunner** is a percussionist, educator and director of percussion workshop company Beat Goes On. He is a former cast member of the hit show STOMP and delivers workshops in education, corporate and community settings throughout the UK and internationally. His workshops frequently explore the combining of body percussion with words, providing a unique approach into the development of pulse, rhythm, meter and verbal expression through kinesthetic creativity. Ollie aims to use music as a platform for social and emotional (alongside musical) development.

#### **What will happen in the sessions?**

The musical content is based on an original piece developed specifically for this project. It does not focus on learning rhythms from particular cultures or advanced techniques. Instead, it provides a simple musical foundation that is accessible to all participants, regardless of experience. Boys are invited to bring their own



ideas, energy and expression into the music. This creates a balance between individual identity and collective belonging, where each participant feels ownership of their part while contributing to a shared group experience.

**1. Arrival & Agreements:** The session begins by establishing a safe, respectful and creative space through simple group agreements: everyone is welcome, no judgement, no prior experience required, and participation is encouraged but never forced.

**2. Check-In Facilitators:** model openness and presence by briefly sharing how they are feeling in that moment. Boys are then invited to share one word or short sentence about how they feel as they arrive. This is framed as a way to become more present, grounded and aware before beginning the session. All responses are received without judgement.

**3. Drumming & Expression:** The group begins with very simple drumming patterns, directly inspired by what was shared in the check-in. Boys explore how those feelings or states can be expressed through sound, and how individual rhythms connect into a shared group experience.

**4. Learning the Core Piece:** The boys begin learning a shared musical piece in simple steps. Each session builds on the previous one, adding new layers over time. They are encouraged to bring their own ideas, and supportive recordings/materials can be shared for practice between sessions.

**5. Reflection & Closing:** The session ends with a brief group reflection. Boys are invited to respond to one or two simple questions, such as: How are you feeling right now? or What are you taking from today's session? This helps consolidate the experience and brings the session to a clear, grounded close.

#### **When is the pilot project running and how many sessions will there be?**

- Tuesday 9th June - 11am-12.30pm
- Thursday 11th June - 9.00am - 10.30am
- Tuesday 16th June - 11am-12.30pm
- Thursday 18th June - 9.00am - 10.30am

#### **How much will it cost?**

I am delighted to say that the sessions are free for all participants.

#### **How can my child sign up to take part in Drum Role.**

If you would like your son to participate in this project, or you have any questions, please email [r.chamberlain@kingsschoolhove.org.uk](mailto:r.chamberlain@kingsschoolhove.org.uk)

The group size will be capped at twelve. If we have more students expressing an interest, we will draw names out of a hat to decide the final twelve. **The deadline for expressing an interest is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May.**

Yours sincerely,

Mr Chamberlain