



Paritor™
ACADEMY

Designed for performing arts schools

Innovating administration ...

A case study on York Music Service



Background

This year has been a turbulent one for music education, while the Henley review has managed to secure funding for this academic year, there has also been a demise of the government's National Music Participation Director position, a snub from inclusion within the English Baccalaureate and a number of local authorities who have axed their music services. The future remains uncertain, government funding beyond March 2012 is threatened and cuts are a very real possibility.

Embracing technology

The back office side of music education can be very time consuming and costly with no direct value to the child. Now is the time to embrace technology. There has been no escape from the benefits of the internet and e-mail over the last two decades but many music providers have failed to recognise the improvements in SQL databases and CMS (content management systems). Those who have embraced this technology have completely transformed the way in which they administer themselves as well as the advantages of a professional image, bought into by all stakeholders.

According to recent figures from Ofcom (2011), 1/3 of adults now use a smartphone. The latest developments of this kind are linking smart devices to the main system. Paritor Live will integrate the latest web and mobile technology in your day to day operation by providing a platform for three way interactions between teachers, parents/pupils and the administration team.

The communication triangle

Last term saw the launch of York Music Service, a charitable organisation, which will support music teachers who are either to lose work or be made redundant following cuts from York Council. The co-Directors of the new organisation, Alison Goffin and Derek Wharley were both heavily involved in the day to day running of the previous council service. However, this new organisation is set to be a very different challenge, with considerably less funds and complete independence. This has meant that Alison and Derek have had to be creative in the way that they operate. They see administration as the key to reducing costs by delivering the majority of their service over the internet, effectively eliminating the bulk of administration. The service will heavily rely on the use of Paritor Live which will be the backbone of their day to day administration.

York Music Service want parents to be able to do everything online. Not only does this significantly reduce double entry and cut administration time but also gives a professional image to the parent. According to OFT (2011) approx. 60% of the UK population have made online purchases. Paritor Live will support parents in their journey with the service, prospective parents will be able to use the online application facility to enter an application for a pupil and where required, make an initial payment. Once an application is accepted a parent can use their web or phone portal to see the messages sent between their child and the teacher and contribute to these, they can also see the diaries for each child. Using the web portal, parents can also check their account and make any necessary payments.

York Music Service will operate with self-employed teachers, which heightens the problem of efficient communication with admin staff. The teacher's timesheets, registers and claims are often not submitted for weeks, even months later, on paper which means out of date information for the management team. Instead through Paritor Live, York Music Service can

enable teacher's access to their own secure online portal via any web browser or smart phone. They can then schedule their work, maintain their diary, submit pay claims/invoices and communicate with parents through Paritor Live, all of which the management team can access.

Paritor

At Paritor, we have been working exclusively with performing arts educators for over 15 years to develop management and administration solutions tailored to the way that they operate. Today, Paritor is the UK leader and imperative to the working lives of many performing arts educators, our customers range from large local authority music services to a single independent teachers, whatever your size we cater for you.

Links

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