

Eligibility to join BSK offline terms

- It is not possible for the BSK offline terms to accommodate students/players that are at the very early stages. However, there will be no discrimination made in the marketing and promotions. The application process however will provide all of the information needed to assess each prospect; and they will be contacted to say whether they have a place or not. If not then there is a lots of scope to help said student/player up to speed – through individual teacher's services; with a view to them joining us further down the line. So there is no need to turn anyone away. That all makes business sense.
- Instead the BSK offline terms will focus on players/students of secondary school age upwards who range from early intermediate to advanced (however that is defined). It means that they have been playing their instrument for at least 1 year or so and perhaps have achieved a standard equal to Grade 3, 4 or 5. The horn players should have sufficiently good reading skills; though ideally the same should apply to the rhythm section players. I don't think it is necessary for players to have much in the way of improvisational skills as this is one of the things that will be taught; and it should certainly be possible to accommodate a class of students with a range of improvisatory abilities whilst observing plenty of inclusion.
- What level of theory do they need to have grasped? Well, let it be said that theory will not be taught during the offline days; instead it will be presented online at BSK website; perhaps in a course form and following the templates provided by Rockscool and LCM. I think students should be encouraged to follow the material online as part of their studies. It was agreed that all students should have access to this; but special attention given to those signing up to a course of online theory lessons. This can be offered at a discounted rate for those that are already signed up to the term but it can also be offered to anyone.
- So some students will have to work harder at the theory side than others. The offline days will focus on how to use the theory to enhance improvisation.
- So how is the theoretical aspect assessed during the application process? Perhaps in the form a written test submitted. Ideally all students should be at around the grade 5; and if not then we have to assess how likely it is that they can catch up outside of BSK offline dates.
- Rhythm section players should be assessed for their reading abilities too though perhaps with some leniency. Nevertheless, the aim should be to raise their reading standards – chord charts, drum charts, lead sheets, written parts and whatever else. If they have no background at all in reading anything...then that might be a problem. Again they can be offered something outside of the dates to support.
- As instrument teachers (teaching improvisation and more) what particular slant do you have on the entry requirements; and what can be done to get prospects up to speed so that they can either catch up during term or so they can join later on?

Details required!