

Voice In A Million
Coronavirus / COVID -19 Update

In response to the recent events and the continued uncertainty of when the government is going to allow mass gatherings Voice In A Million can announce that at this current moment in time our shows will now be rescheduled for March 2021. We held dates for May July Oct 2020 but subject to Oliver Dowdens five stage roadmap for performing arts we feel March 2021 is the best option and are hoping plans will have been fully implemented.

We have now begun collating all information from all schools to assess the impact of this on each school group, which will enable us to plan effectively for the best possible outcome for all.

It was an absolutely heart breaking decision to postpone our concerts in March but in the end the choice was simple, we were bombarded with parents and schools asking us to postpone the event in March to a later and safer time, which we did.

I am sure you are aware this event takes almost a year to organise. All of our costs are paid well in advance and the costs to stage this event are well in excess of £250,000. This amount is not refunded; as we too signed contracts and terms and conditions, that provide for events being re-scheduled. Unfortunately our insurance for the event, although robust, does not cover pandemic outbreaks.

We appreciate that this has caused upset and anger to some parents and we can only apologise, we simply do not have the funds to refund and therefore the only option we have is to reschedule.

In short, if we didn't go ahead, we would have no other choice than to close and be one of the many companies that have ceased to trade due to Covid 19.

To sustain enthusiasm for the event from the beginning of the new academic year in Sept 2020 we will be running weekly choir / singing workshops for all schools and students taking part all accessible online with a duration of 40 mins to fit nicely into the schools timetable. We are delighted to announce a number of overseas schools will also be joining us for these sessions. These will be online and can be accessed any time during the week

Regarding Year 6 & Year 11 students where the impact will be greater we are working with a number of schools to cater for this age group; and whilst they will have left the school by the time of the event, they will be able to attend later in the day with their parents, prior to the event starting, avoiding the need to miss any school time but allowing them the opportunity to experience and take part in our event.

They will have a choice of either being seated with their original school group, or be supervised on a 1-10 ratio in a block for year 6s. This is the fairest way to ensure that those children are given the opportunity not to miss out, and also we hope will mean their families can use their tickets and see their children. Whilst it may not seem like the ideal solution it is the only one we can offer.

We appreciate parents, family & friends that have purchased tickets, are disappointed, we too were devastated to have to postpone.

The fact is we simply do not have the funds to refund the tickets as we have not been refunded for any of our costs. Had this happened in November 2019 the outcomes would have been very different.

We have 18,000 T shirts in storage, along with all merchandise. Plus we have 15000 children that have rehearsed and I am sure want to perform!
Therefore the show must go on!

Using the Arena to its full capacity rather than our normal configurations for our events would allow us the opportunity to socially distance our events.

I am so sorry that I cannot offer a more positive response but with our industry in crisis we are simply hoping that we manage to get through this and don't have to close. I would ask that people try to remember that VIAM didn't cause this pandemic and the impact on businesses is huge, we are not the only business to find ourselves in this position and after 12 years of operating VIAM this will have a devastating and lasting effect for the foreseeable future.