**Blackpool Music School's online lessons are a success for students**

**BMS continues to thrive despite lockdown restrictions.**

Blackpool Music School, based on Waterloo Road, has been able to continue throughout the pandemic, thanks to a brainwave from chairman and founder John Shaw.

John said: "when lockdown came earlier this year, the school had 24 hours to put a plan together, so the school could continue teaching students.

Several years ago, John’s sister who lives out of town, was teaching students in India via Skype. Blackpool Music School was asked if they want to teach music in India, via the internet but at the time they declined the offer due to the lack of experience.

Remembering this conversation when the lockdown restrictions took place in March, John asked his sister if she would assist in setting up internet video lessons, and his sister agreed to help.

After a meeting with trustees, directors and tutors, it was decided that Skype and Zoom lessons were the way forward at this present moment in time, and received 100 per cent backing from everyone.

The school managed to retain around 70 per cent of its students, following the move to online tuition and it was deemed 'an overall success.'

The school has now invested in equipment to make it the 'best experience possible' using the latest technology.



**Founder John Shaw**

John said: "As some students are continuing with internet lessons, the school has purchased a wide angled camera that allows students at home to take part in group lessons and see the majority of students attending.

With the use of special microphones and cameras in the class, people at home can be more involved with the group. This is great, as it allows social distancing but also for people to make friends.

With the Covid- 19 restrictions still in place and Blackpool in Tier 3, we will continue to teach people either at the school or over the internet, the choice is up to those who wish to take part. We will also be following the strict guidelines of social distancing.

As the winter months’ approach, John said “the school is trialling a new activity for groups of people to take up an instrument.”

We are offering an activity for all of the family, during the winter months, so people could learn together as a group. This could be done either at the school, or via zoom or skype at home. If people have friends in different locations, you could all learn together, as we hope to cater for most situations.

For more information about the classes available call 01253 695398 or go to www.blackpoolmusicschool.org