



# MUSIC



The Royal School  
Wolverhampton

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

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## WELCOME TO MUSIC NEWS!

This is the first edition of our brand-new Music Department newsletter!

We are so excited to be able to share news of our upcoming events, photos and reviews of our performances, both in school and the wider community, and even some behind the scene 'extras'. We will also include news from Performing Arts, and both Senior and Primary Choir.

Music is a huge part of our school life, both as part of our curriculum and enriching our wider educational experience by nurturing creativity, promoting teamwork and fostering personal growth.

Over the last term, we have introduced a reward system to recognise the dedication of our students taking music instrument lessons with Wolverhampton Music Service. The students who have shown commitment to practicing their instruments at home each week receive a certificate for completed reward charts, and at the end of each term will receive a Bronze, Silver or Gold lapel badge.

We are encouraging our Music students to contribute to our newsletters. Each edition will feature an item created by a student to showcase their chosen instrument.

## Autumn 2023 Review in Summary

### Our Autumn events included:

- House Music – Senior School
- London Theatre Trip – Wicked!
- Ingestre Hall Residential
- Harvest Service
- Primary Choir Day at St Barts Church
- Lunchtime Concert at Wolverhampton Art Gallery
- Advent Service of Light
- Winter Concert
- Care Home Christmas Carols
- Year 7 Big Sing Lesson

### Music Prefects

Our Music Prefects are a newly established group of students who help with the running of the department in the senior school. Students help out with concerts and volunteer to do a lunch duty each week to support younger pupils with accessing music and to help keep our department clean and tidy! If you see a student wearing a music prefect badge, please stop them to talk about their role!



*Piano - Strings - Woodwind - Brass - Guitar - Drum Kit - Vocals - Dhol - Tabla*

## House Music

In October, the whole of the senior school headed down to a local Wolverhampton church – the venue for our annual House Music competition. Every year, students from across the senior school audition for the chance to perform in front of the entire school, earning coveted points for their house as they do.

This year we held over 9 hours of auditions, hearing everyone from Year 7 up to Year 13 and even one member of staff! The quality of all the auditions were excellent and it was clear that every student took their chance very seriously.

All students who auditioned gained points for their House. However, the final group of students who were chosen to perform at the final event were:

**Solo Singer:** Harnet Sandhu (12), Lurna Yeboah (13), Luke Russell (13), Tendai-Avril Mukono (12), Amelia Grant-King (11)

**Solo Instrumentalist:** Gia Khullar – Piano (11), Alexander Gratwick – Classical Guitar (11), Ollie Turner – bass guitar (10)

**Mixed Group:** Lily Clark and Tristan Cullis (13), Salome and Aneniishe Garacho (11 and 9), Tendai-Avril Mukono and Ria Mistry (12), Jasraj Bhara and Dylan Jhumat (10 and 13) and the sixth form band – Diversion.

Each of the performances at the event were incredible. Our students really showcased their professionalism in rehearsals and of course, their talent came in spade loads as they performed to an avid crowd.

Finally, we were wowed by the famous House songs. Balmoral performed Proud by Heather Small, Buckingham played Where Is The Love? (with full live band!), Sandringham performed Hallelujah and Windsor sang Someone Like You, reworded to pay homage to Mr Heywood!

Windsor took the crown for the House Song, however, Sandringham stormed to victory, winning them the House Music trophy for the second year in a row!

## Lunchtime Art Gallery Concert

In November, a select few of our instrumentalists went to Wolverhampton Art Gallery to perform an entirely instrumental concert. We were invited by the Wolverhampton Music Service and we were so pleased to see a packed audience in the beautiful venue!

Our instrumental performers were from Year 7 to 11 and ranged from beginners to advanced players. We had flute, clarinet, French horn, guitar, bass guitar and violin solos. Our piano soloists particularly enjoyed playing the lovely Steinway Grand Piano too!

Alexander Gratwick even performed a surprise extra concert to a passing group of visiting year 4 students after the concert had finished!



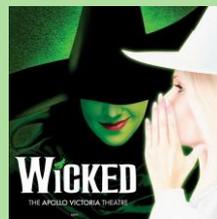
## Well done to our first Bronze Music Badge recipients:

### Primary School:

Yvie-Jai Coates  
Elena Gavril  
Gabriel Joya-Paul  
Nevaeh-Faith Maxwell  
Elijah Murambiwa  
Rohan Purewal  
Hanna Zhao  
Noa Abbas  
Thomas Anderson  
Ramiyah Augustine  
Saroop Bains  
Simar Bains  
Ginny Bertaut  
Kiera Dhlohdlo  
Amaiya Paul  
Anaya Paul  
Jaya Paul  
Sahana Sen Pradhan  
Jay'J Smith  
Gergo Solymosi  
Amro Uppal  
Bonnie Wright  
Afua Forkuoh  
Fathima Ur-Rehman  
Gurisher Singh Aujila  
Joshua Mzuku  
Kiran Tiwana  
Lexi Starr  
Olivia Yearwood  
Parmjot Bagri  
Tanvi Khadka  
Thomas Newton  
Kavnir Liddar  
Sara Eagle  
Avaani Parmar  
Ethan Muir  
Liam Duckhouse  
Maya Kubik-Matthews

### Senior School:

Asiah Thrower  
Dhruvika Sharma  
Erin Chapman-Hare  
Gabriel Assing  
Rowan Hibbert  
Jyotika Loi  
Lillie-Mai Caine  
Aviva Hibbert



## Wicked Trip

In October GCSE and BTEC students from year 9 and upwards headed to London to watch a performance of Wicked the Musical.

**Defying Gravity** (a fantastic song from the end of Act 1) is one of our set works for GCSE Music so it only seemed right to go and see the work performed live!

Students really enjoyed the glittering performance and our “One Short Day” in London!

We described the performance as “unbelievable”, “incredible” and, of course, “Wicked”!

## Ingestre Hall Residential



In the last week of the October half term a large group of students made their way to Ingestre Hall, an impressive stately home in rural Staffordshire, for an exciting week of the creative arts. Just arts, arts and more arts all week! Perfect!

The hall, originally home to the Earls of Shrewsbury, is now the UK's only dedicated residential arts centre. It's home to resident artists in lots of disciplines, including music, drama, dance and art. Our students each signed up to dedicate their time to developing their skills and passions in one of these areas over the course of the week.

In art, the students worked with a variety of different media to produce different pieces based on a theme of Gothic horror (the same theme that we all had for the week!). The artists used drawing, painting, photography

and even crochet to realise their gothic thoughts! Later in the week we tried some silk painting, creating good vs evil portraits using our own faces.

In dance, the students were looking at Lady Macbeth and her downfall. Students worked on partner work, solo work, trust falls, lead and follow and a few daring lifts to realise this story in movement. The final piece was very lyrical and used blood red petals as an impressive prop for a really beautiful work of art.

In drama, the students created their own dramatic piece based on the story of Dorian Gray and themes of bullying, social media and prejudice. The students scripted and cast the piece themselves and used lots of dramatic techniques including freeze frame and monologue to create a very hard hitting piece. We were very impressed by the use of a picture frame to highlight certain characters!

Finally, in music the students formed two different bands and worked on creating original pieces to reflect the local folk tale of the chained oak – an old story of curses and evil. The bands both took a very different approach to the task and ended up with two very different pieces – a rock song and an instrumental piece – which both explored these themes brilliantly! Students had to work together to write, rehearse and perform their pieces.

The entire week was an absolute joy with students throwing themselves into their workshop and evening activities. Everyone took a huge amount from the residential and there were lots of fantastic instances of students showing real personal growth and building their confidence. We were very proud of their final showcase!

We can't wait to go back again in the future!

We are currently arranging a trip for October 2024. This will be open to students in Years 7-13 that will be studying with us in October. More information will be given out shortly.

Ingestre Hall has an incredible reputation for developing and discovering hidden talent, and it's an experience that lives long in the memory.

## Christmas Season

The Christmas period is always an incredibly busy time in the music department, this year more so than ever before! Our students wowed at a diverse range of events across a number of days, really spreading Christmas cheer with their joyful music!

Firstly, we accompanied the PTA Christmas Fayre. Our sixth form band took to the stage in the theatre to perform a set of cover songs and their own original material. They had a great stage presence and really set the event alight! After this, we had a great amount of groups and solo singers who performed a range of hits from festive classics through to Stevie Wonder!

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December we held our annual candlelit Advent Service in the chapel. Our primary choir, year 7 singers and chamber choir performed musical items and, along with the senior choir, lead all of the congregational carols for a packed chapel. Mr Davis accompanied us on the organ. We were also pleased to showcase our new staff student choir for the first time, a group of singers ranging from year 9 through to staff from across the entire school. We made a fabulous sound and hope to do more performances in the future with this new group!

The very next day was concert day! Our annual Winter Concert was a packed event and saw so many different students take to the stage in bands, ensembles and as soloists. Every single performance was an incredibly highlight and music department staff were so proud of all of the students. The audience were treated to everything from self-penned piano duets to rock bands, violin and flute solos to solo singers and even a guitar and vocal duet that left not a dry eye in the house! Many of our students also took on key support roles, including stage managing, sound engineering and introducing, making this an entirely student fronted event.

Finally, our chamber choir headed out to spread some Christmas cheer in the local community, performing a short concert of carols at two local care homes. We really enjoyed the opportunity to share the joy of music with the local people and look forward to doing this again! All of the girls on the trip were very caring and really represented themselves and the school beautifully.

And so, after a hectic week term ended for the holidays, with our young musicians proud of the incredible performances that they achieved! We are very much looking forward to what 2024 brings!



# Music Club Timetable 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunch</b>	Senior Chamber Choir - LS	Senior Orchestra - LS	Music Dept Lunch Practice Club - LS	Music Dept Lunch Practice Club - LS	Music Dept Lunch Practice Club - LS
<b>Period 6/After school</b>		School Production Whole Cast Rehearsal – MS, LS, LD, ADA  Primary School Choir – ER, HD, CC	Year 11 Intervention -LS (see timetable)	Senior School Choir - LS  Senior School Band - IE	



## School Production 2024

This year's musical is taking us to the decade that brought us Back to the Future, Ghostbusters and Thriller. The era of the yuppie who told us that 'Greed is good', Ronald Reagan was the US President and neon was the colour to be seen in.

We're heading back to the 1980s...

Rehearsals have begun on this year's school musical which is 'The Wedding Singer'. Students are working hard five nights a week either dancing, singing or acting. Set in 1985 it's a great summer musical and full of 80's nostalgia and stereotypes!

The date is set for July 2024.

# Year 11 Intervention Timetable

Wednesday Period 6.

All Students from year 11 invited to attend.

	Date	Rough Topic
1	24 <sup>th</sup> January (Period 6)	Pitch Dictation Year 10 Coursework fixes
2	7 <sup>th</sup> February (Period 6)**	Purcell: Music For A While
3	21 <sup>st</sup> February (Period 6)	Killer Queen: Queen
4	28 <sup>th</sup> February (Period 6)	Defying Gravity: Schwartz
5	6 <sup>th</sup> March (Period 6)	Star Wars: Williams
6	20 <sup>th</sup> March (Period 6)	Brandenburg Concerto: Bach
7	10 <sup>th</sup> April (Period 6)	Pathetique Sonata: Beethoven
8	24 <sup>th</sup> April (Period 6)	Samba: Spalding
9	1 <sup>st</sup> May (Period 6)	Release: Afro Celt Sound System
10	8 <sup>th</sup> May (Period 6)	Exam Questions + Final Coursework mop ups
11	22 <sup>nd</sup> May (Period 6)	Exam Questions
12	12 <sup>th</sup> June (Period 6)	Exam Questions

Coming up . . .

We have a number of events this half-term including two *Primary Performing Arts Showcases*, and a whole of *Year 4 and Year 7 visit to The Halls* to experience a performance from Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra of familiar classical music ranging from Vivaldi's Four Seasons to the Jai Ho! theme from Slumdog Millionaire! In addition, we are in full swing of rehearsals for our *school production* and have some *exciting trips* to be announced soon.

## Newsletter Contributions from our students

We would love to hear from our Music Students who would like to write a short article for our newsletter to profile their instrument and tell everyone about their music lessons, together with any performances they have taken part in. What is special about your instrument? What do you enjoy playing?

Send your article to Mrs Simmonds (lsimmonds@theroyal.school), or to Mrs Cooper (kcooper@theroyal.school).

### Cancellations – Reminder

Please remember that when you sign up to our WMS Music Instrument Lessons you have committed to take them for the full academic year (September to July). We split the yearly cost of £252 into 3 installments of £84 per term.

We do understand that sometimes you may wish to cancel music lessons, but we need you to give us at least a half term's notice to cancel at the end of the term.

You will need to fulfill your payment for lessons up to the end of the term.

**RED WEEK** – There are no scheduled music instrument lessons from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February – unless your music teacher has specifically told you they will be in school.

