



St. Aubyn's School

Bravely, Faithfully, Happily

Music Department Lent Term 2017 Newsletter

Dear all,

We have had a wonderful end to this term with a number of rich and varied performance experiences for the children. The challenges of running any Performing Arts Department are far outweighed by the successes that we see in our children. My favourite moments of this term have been seeing the smiles on the children's and parents' faces following the fantastic Year 5 performance, and the achievements of Miss Evison and her recorder pupils who play with such commitment and passion.

I hope that you have enjoyed our music making as much as we have. Next term will be just as exciting. I hope that you will be able to make it to one of our many concerts which are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Miss Tulloch, Director of Music



"Music imprints itself on the brain deeper than any other human experience. Music evokes emotion and emotion can bring with it memory. Music brings back the feeling of life when nothing else can"
Oliver Sacks.

To read more about this, Dr Oliver Sack has written a book **Musicophilia**, tales of music and the brain.

Below: Successes at the 2017 Stratford Festival, with Senior Chamber Choir winning their class, and Junior Chamber Choir taking 2nd place.

Left: Many congratulations to Rose Jackson and Qi Fan Guo on their offers of Music Scholarships.



ABRSM Exams

Many of the children have taken exams on their instruments this term. Please send in copies of certificates so that they can be celebrated in assemblies and displayed in the music room. We like to celebrate all of the hard work the children put into their exams.



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Treasure Island – Year 5 Play

This year saw Year 5 take on the challenge of a full length play, with a musical adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island. Congratulations to all of the children on their hard work. What an excellent production!



Peripatetic Concerts - Eric Nastro & Penny Manser



At the end of January, Ms Nastro's violin students took to the stage, followed by Miss Manser's singers a week later. It was fantastic to hear the progress of individual students and appreciate the outcome of their hard work. Well done to all involved.

Senior School House Singing

Our Senior School children, along with their House Captains and teachers, rehearsed songs for a house singing competition. This was a big success! The standard of the whole house singing has really improved and this event is now a regular fixture in our calendar. Our adjudicator (Mrs O'Keefe from Woodford Green Prep School) was very impressed with our children and the overall standard of singing.



Young Voices

Year 5 made their annual trip to Young Voices at the O2 Arena in January. As ever, this was a fun-packed day, full of high-energy, uplifting singing. The repertoire spanned everything from a medley of 'Folk Songs of the British Isles' to Adele's 'Hello' and the traditional South African song, 'Maliswe'. A good time was had by all!



St. Aubyn's (Woodford Green) School Trust

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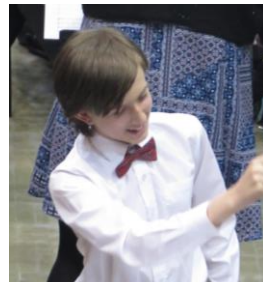
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Spring Concert

This year's Spring Concert was a real success, with orchestra taking on the challenge of an arrangement of Beethoven's 5th Symphony, as well as a medley of Star Wars themes. Senior Chamber Choir, conducted by Miss Manser, performed Morning has Broken and Mamma Mia. Their Junior counterparts performed My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean, Mango Walk and Wade in the Water. There were also performances from the string, brass and woodwind groups, as well as African Drumming Club.



Recorder Showcase

In addition to our Spring Concert, for the first time ever we added a Year 4 Recorder Showcase. Year 4 have been working so hard on their recorder playing, that we felt it was important to share this with parents. They played, sang and improvised, demonstrating their skills at both reading music and playing by ear in three songs; 'The Singing Pirates', 'Funk-E Time' and 'Articulatango.' Thank you to Year 4 parents for their support and the encouragement of practice at home. I'm sure you will agree their achievements speak for themselves.



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In Other News...

While the students' performances in concerts and festivals are a vital part of our Department, they come as a result of the day-to-day work that goes on behind the scenes. This gradual musical progression begins the moment that the children start in Nursery. Behind closed doors, Nursery and Reception continue to work on finding their singing voices and sense of pulse. Year 1 are continuing on their journey by accompanying themselves with percussion instruments. Year 2 are confidently reading rhythmic notation in preparation for beginning the recorder in September. Having just finished rehearsing for their House Singing competition, Senior School are beginning to rehearse for next term's musical 'Hairspray.' This promises to be a real highlight of the year.

Dates for Next Term

Here are a few of our dates for next term for your diaries. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these. You are welcome to come to any of our concerts in the PAC, even if your child is not involved in them. Feel free to ask Miss Tulloch for more information.

Date	Event	Venue
Tuesday, 19 April 2017	Instrumental lessons start	Music Department
Tuesday, 23 May 2017	Instrumental Taster Evening	PAC
Friday, 26 May	David Silkoff and Sebastian Stear piano pupil concert	PAC
Friday, 9 June	Guitar Concert with Mr Warner and pupils	PAC
Friday, 23 June	Year 6 and 8 – Hairspray, 6pm	PAC
Saturday, 24 June	Year 6 and 8 – Hairspray, 5pm	PAC
Monday, 26 June	Rachel Eyres and Ruth Berresford pupil concert	PAC
Thursday, 29 June	Drumming Concert with Miss D'Sousa and Mr Oliver's pupils.	PAC
Thursday, 6 July	Summer Concert	PAC

**Wishing you a very happy Easter
 from the Music Department.**