

# PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

26th January 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we are now half way through this first half term, it seems timely to issue a Principal's Update although much still seems surrounded by uncertainty. However, the first thing I want to say is this: thank you! Thank you for all you are doing to support us during this time and for all your messages of support, appreciation and encouragement. They are much appreciated and make all the difference! Thank you also for all you are doing to support your own children, often whilst juggling your own work commitments, supporting the siblings of our students and managing home life. It's not at all easy and we do appreciate all you are doing on the "home front" and we are always here to help further if needed.

## Return to School

There has been much in the media over the weekend concerning a possible return date and there seems to be a growing acceptance that a return after the February half term is increasingly unlikely. Personally, I would be very surprised if we saw a return after half term but I have learnt to rule nothing out where

Government announcements are concerned! I should stress that we have access to no more information than you and until such time as an official announcement is made, we carry on as we are – everything else remains conjecture and speculation. However, if you are an international family, I would advise against making

any travel plans based on a return at February half term until there is official confirmation this is to be the case. If this means your son or daughter returns a little later because of quarantine etc. we will continue to support them remotely until they can get here.

## Summer Exams

As you will be aware, the Government announced that GCSE and A Level exams in England will not proceed in the usual manner this summer. Ofqual (the exams regulator) has issued proposals for consultation which parents can read and comment on here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/>

[consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021](#)

As yet, we have no firm idea what the final methodology might look like and we need to await further information which we will circulate when it comes. Exam boards who run IGCSEs are currently planning to run these as normal, but this

is being actively challenged by many (including us) and we will have to see if their position changes as a response to the final Ofqual position.

## ISI Inspection

You may remember that last half term the Independent Schools Inspectorate (our equivalent of Ofsted) undertook an unannounced inspection, primarily concerning safeguarding, and

I reported to you in a previous update that we were found to be fully compliant.

The full report is now available on the School website and can be found [here](#).

As many will know, since my arrival we have refocussed on a “Safe, Happy, Healthy” agenda and it is gratifying to know that our positive work in this area has been objectively recognized.

## “Lockdown Survey” for Parents and Guardians

Now we have had three weeks to establish our pattern of remote working, we are keen to get some feedback from you about the experience so far and see if any trends emerge that would allow us to improve, develop or adjust our provision for the benefit

of the majority. I would be grateful if you would complete a short survey to help us with this. The survey only applies to this period of lockdown and is focussed on provision and the student experience. It can be completed anonymously if you wish, but we are better able to

respond appropriately if you are happy to provide the name of your child at the end.

You can find the survey on the school website: <https://www.purcell-school.org/parent-questionnaire-remote-learning/>

## Year 12 Consultation Evening

We will be continuing our run of [Virtual Parents' Consultations](#) next week for parents of students in Year 12. This is a chance for you to meet your child's academic teachers and tutors, and will be using our new online booking system with consultations happening by video.

Music specialist teachers will not be at this meeting. Most staff will be holding consultations on Friday 5th February with the exception

of Ms Blond, Mr Fellas and Ms Emelianova who will be holding consultations on Wednesday 3rd February.

Appointments are 5 minutes long, with the exception of appointments for English as an Additional Language and Learning Support which will have 10 minute appointments available. Bookings can be made from Friday 29th January at 09:00 and will close at 18:00 the day before the meetings. Should you wish to make any

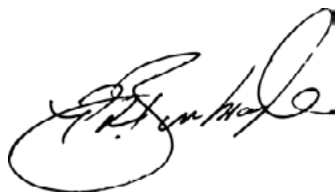
changes after this date please contact the school office. Students are welcome to join you for the meetings.

A short guide to booking appointments can be found [here](#).

You may also wish to watch [Video Appointments: Parents - How to attend appointments over video call](#).

This is proving to be a difficult time for everyone – in many ways more so than the previous period of lockdown. I would ask you to be mindful that all the frustrations and difficulties you are facing in trying to balance remote schooling with everything else are also being felt by our staff, many of whom also have young children at home, family concerns and other practical difficulties. The pressures are great and everyone is tired and feeling the strain a little. But one of the lovely things about The Purcell School is the closeness of its community: we must take full advantage of this during this period and be there for each other, be patient with each other and together we will find a way through it. We are here to support you and I know that House Staff, in particular, are only too happy to find time for a chat with parents, if required!


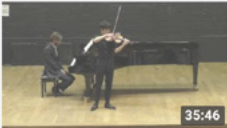
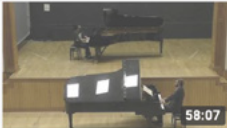


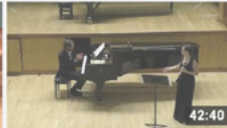
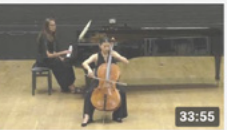



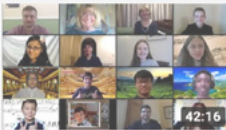

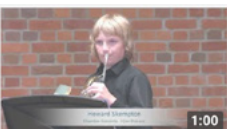




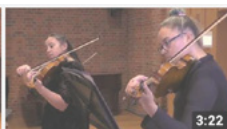
Stay safe and well,



Paul Bambrough  
Principal



## Catch up with Purcell Online:

 53:01	 35:46	 58:07	 1:30:49	 30:54	 42:40
<b>The Purcell School Winter Jazz Concert 10/12/20</b>	<b>Senior School Concerto Competition Finalists - ...</b>	<b>Senior School Concerto Competition Finalists - ...</b>	<b>The Purcell School Composers' Concert</b>	<b>The Purcell School - Live At Lunchtime #8</b>	<b>Senior School Concerto Competition Finalists - Lily...</b>
 33:55	 1:28:11	 11:41	 6:30	 42:16	 1:42
<b>Senior School Concerto Competition Finalist - ...</b>	<b>Roots: An Evening Recital Celebrating Black History...</b>	<b>Marimba Duet - "Departures" by Emmanuel Séjourné</b>	<b>Lunchtime Concerts at Purcell</b>	<b>The Purcell School's Online Composition Academy - ...</b>	<b>Large Chamber Ensembles   Skempton 'Chamber...</b>
 1:00	 4:23	 3:00	 3:57	 2:18	 3:22
<b>Large Chamber Ensembles   Skempton 'Chamber...</b>	<b>Large Chamber Ensembles   Grieg 'Holberg Suite' (II...</b>	<b>Large Chamber Ensembles   Grieg 'Holberg Suite' (I...</b>	<b>Large Chamber Ensembles   Grieg 'Holberg Suite' (V...</b>	<b>Large Chamber Ensembles   Mozart 'Divertimento K 136-...</b>	<b>Large Chamber Ensembles   Mozart 'Divertimento K 136-...</b>