

PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

12th September 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is not my usual practice to issue a newsletter every week, but in light of recent events, and ensuring you have as much information as possible at the beginning of the term, please have a good read through the following.

Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II

As you will be aware, the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II will take place next Monday (19th) and this has been declared a Bank Holiday.

Following the issue of guidance from the Department of Education, the School will remain in session for those boarders who elect to stay but will be closed for all teaching - including instrumental teaching - on Monday 19th September. Day Students should therefore not attend on that day.

Weekly Boarders should leave as normal on Friday afternoon and return on the evening of Monday 19th after 6pm. Full Boarders who wish to spend the long weekend at home with their families or guardians may leave school on Friday 16th and should return to school on the evening of Monday 19th after 6pm. Boarders who cannot return home may elect to stay at school for the weekend, including the Bank Holiday Monday. The Saturday morning music programme will continue to run for those who

remain. **Families of boarders are asked to confirm their intentions with the relevant Houses no later than 6pm on Wednesday 14th September.**

The 3-day Exeat weekend scheduled for the end of next week will go ahead as planned.

Parents Evenings

Please note the dates for Parents' Meetings. Parents will be able to attend in person or book an online consultation.

Autumn Term

- Friday 4th November (first Friday after half term): **Yr12**
- Friday 18th November (exeat weekend): **Yr13**

Spring Term

- Friday 27th January (exeat weekend): **Yr11**
- Friday 24th February (first Friday after half term): **Yr10**
- Friday 10th March (exeat weekend): **Yr9**

Summer Term

- Friday 28th April (exeat weekend): **Yr7/Y8**

Student Elections

The School has two formal mechanisms for enabling students to comment on their experience of being here and help shape policy and practice. The first is the School Council which comprises a student representative of each tutor group from each year. School Council meets once a term as a minimum and is chaired by the Student Leadership Team (see below). During the course of this week, tutorials will focus on School Council and the election of tutor reps. Do encourage students to participate in this important aspect of school life.

The second is the Student Leadership Team, drawn largely from Year 13. Formerly, this has involved the election

of a Head Boy and Head Girl. However, this no longer sits comfortably with the School's gender neutral approach to policy. Therefore, from this year we will have three Student Heads of School one elected by NBH, one by Sunley and by Day Students. Year 13 students will also have the opportunity to put themselves forward for election to other leadership positions within school, including:

- Activities Lead x2 (one from each senior house)
- Sports Lead x2 (ditto)
- Academic Lead
- Charities and Outreach Lead
- Music Lead
- Sustainability Lead

Year 13 students wishing to be considered will put themselves forward this week and hustings and elections will take place throughout the coming week. If your daughter or son is considering putting themselves forward, or if you know them to be passionate about any of the above areas, please encourage them. If elected, they will be able to make a lasting and important impact on the life and work of the School. We hope to announce the new Student Leadership Team next week.

Higher Education Application

The application process for UK Conservatoire and Universities has now begun in earnest and, as in other years, we have students looking at further study both in the UK and abroad. Following a number of sessions last year in preparation, the Upper Sixth students met with Mr Szafranski last week to discuss the application process. Students are being sent this information internally along with links to applications, but we thought it might be useful for you as parents to understand the timelines and structures in place both within the school and externally.

Students should be working on

their **Personal Statements** at the moment, a 4000-character piece of writing about who they are, why they're applying and what they love about their subject. They will do this for applications to everywhere in the UK. Those applying to the US are starting on their **personal essays** and those applying to European institutions will be doing the same over the next few months. Students have been encouraged to share their personal statements with their tutors and with Mr Szafranski who can provide them guidance on what is best to include. There is also a great deal of support on the [UCAS website](#), and students should

by now have registered for the Hub which is where their applications will be made, as well as any other information they're looking for. Students can sign up for the UCAS Hub at any point, and those who are interested in non-musical careers might want to consider registering and using their online tools in Years 11 or 12.

Students must complete their forms themselves, but there will be information in there that parents can help with. Students have been asked to sign their applications off with Mr Szafranski before sending to ensure that they are complete and accurate. The process is slightly different for university

applications than it is for conservatoire applications but guidance is available either via FAQs in the common room, or one of the drop-in sessions that Mr Szafranski is organising over the next couple of weeks.

There are some fixed deadlines over the next few months:

3rd October:
Conservatoire Deadline

15th October:
Oxbridge Deadline

1st November:
US Early Deadline

31st December:
US Final Deadline

25th January:
UCAS Deadline (Uni)

Spring 2022:
European Deadlines

With all good wishes,



Paul Bambrough
Principal

Students applying to read Music at University will be supported in their application by members of the Academic Music department, as they will usually have to produce additional materials, and those applying to read other subjects will usually be given support by a member of staff with particular experience or expertise. Those applying to Oxford or Cambridge may need to take additional tests and, if this is the case, they should return the form sent to them by Ms Canosa so that we can arrange for them to be sat in school; most of these are in the first week back after half term.

Mr Szafranski is available to answer any questions about the application process for students and parents, and can be contacted by email at z.szafranski@purcell-school.org.

