

PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

18th January 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It seems a little late to be wishing you a happy new year, but now we have the week of mock exams out of the way and are settling back into a more regular mode of operation, it's a good opportunity to drop you a note with a few updates. We have another incredibly packed term ahead with events, more or less, every day and I look forward to seeing you at one such event very soon.

GCSE Music

Congratulations to all who have received outstanding GCSE music results today (Wednesday). It is an

extraordinary thing to look at a list of results and see row after row of A*s! Every result is a significant achievement and

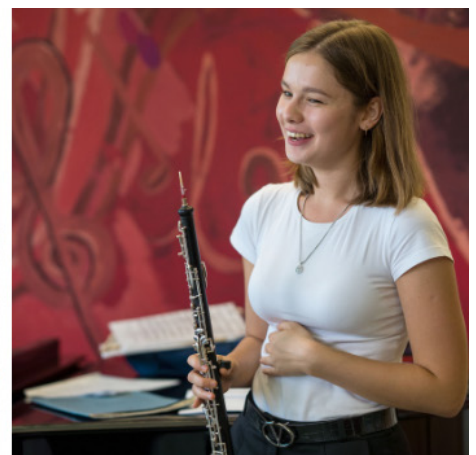
reflects the hard work of each individual. It was a very good way to start the day!

Mock Exams

As you may know, all Year 11 and year 13 have undertaken a week of mock exams. Our intention was to mimic as closely as possible the situation of the real thing using external invigilators and applying all the necessary regulations. For many, this was their first experience of working under these circumstances and, as such, was a valuable learning experience in itself. From an operational point of

view, we were delighted with how the week ran: students were (mostly!) in the right place at the right time and had the necessary equipment and conducted themselves well. They will be receiving results this week along with feedback about how and where they need to improve. I have encouraged them to see these results as part of the journey rather than the destination. Do please ask them about their

results and next steps and do please contact teachers if you have any questions.

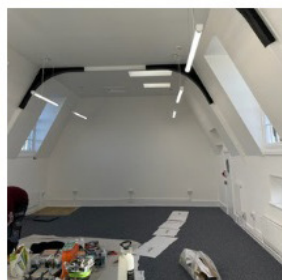
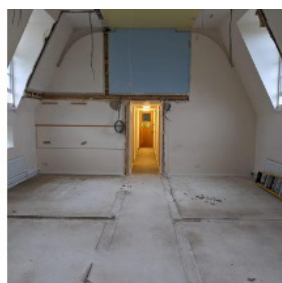
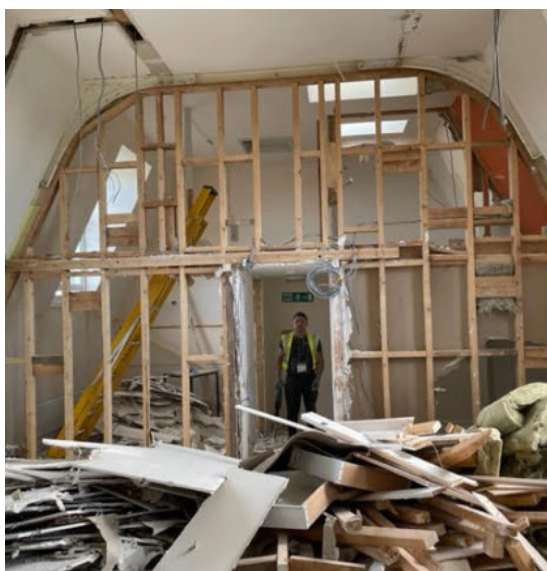
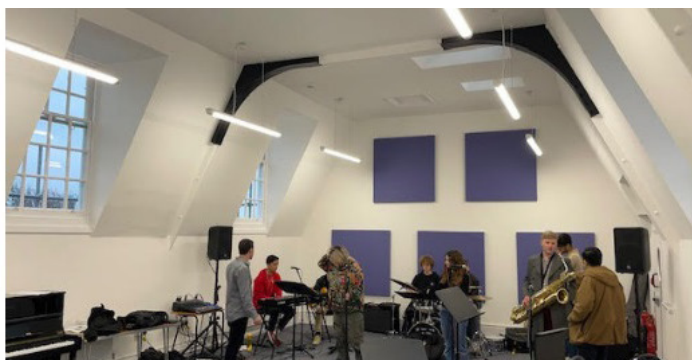


New Home For Jazz, Commercial and Popular Music

I am delighted to report that, owing to a generous gift from a benefactor, we have been enabled to create a really high quality dedicated teaching and performance space for JCP. This work has seen a complete

remodelling of the upper floor of the West Wing to create a large performance space along with some dedicated practice rooms. It is a magnificent addition to our facilities and, as a consequence of the move,

has allowed the Percussion Studio (previously shared by Jazz) to become “rededicated” to percussion! Please see some pictures below.



Broadcast

On Saturday 7th January a film crew visited the school to record a short documentary entitled “What is Classical Music?” for GB News. The programme was hosted by Michael Portillo and our newest patron Julian Lloyd Webber, who were magnificently supported by our students who provided the

musical examples to illustrate their conversation. A short version of the programme was aired “live” on Sunday 8th in which the school, and Julian’s association with us, was well promoted. The full interview, filmed in the Recital Room, has just been released and is available [here](#).

We are grateful to Julian for facilitating this and bringing us to the attention of a new audience.

Coursework Deadlines

In order for teachers to mark and moderate students’ coursework to the standard required by exam boards, the following internal deadlines have been imposed for all non-exam assessments.

These dates are for final drafts (unless noted) and individual teachers and subjects will also distribute deadlines for first drafts if required. Students are expected to alert their teacher to any problems or issues well in advance of these dates so issues can be addressed in time to ensure the work is submitted by the deadline. If any pieces are passed in after this date they will be at risk of not being submitted to the board. Please use this term

to seek any support you may need in order for this work to be completed on time.

23rd January

- **Music Tech** - Recording coursework due

21st March

- **Drama** - Portfolio first draft due
- **English Literature** - Component 1 and 2 final drafts due
- **History** - All coursework due
- **Music Tech** - Final Deadline with Mix
- **Pre-U Music** - Final drafts for composition, harmony booklets and personal project

21st April

- **Drama** - Portfolio final deadline
- **Modern Foreign Languages** - Independent Research Project Form to be submitted



Parent Association

Following a meeting with parents at which it was suggested that we might consider forming a Parent Association, we sought the views of parents via a survey

last half term. The results of this survey show (definitely!) that there is very little appetite for such an association and so there seems little to be gained by investing time and energy

in such a venture. Thank you to the two parents who offered to act as administrators in the event of such an initiative being pursued.

RCM Research Project

We have been invited to take part in an exciting research project carried out by the Royal College of Music as part of one of their student's MSc in Performance Science.

This project provides the school with an ideal opportunity to gain both relevant and useful feedback in order to further strengthen our wellbeing provision at Purcell, particularly as the research aims to understand students' experiences studying within a specialist music school which is quite a unique situation. The results of this research project, which will be anonymous, aim to inform us of ways to further

develop and support student wellbeing whilst studying in a musical environment such as Purcell. Beyond the school, the research will form a base of understanding within academia which could also inform similar musical education establishments in practical ways to better understand adolescents' experience to improve overall student wellbeing.

As this is a voluntary research project the researcher, Helen Kuby, must gain parental consent in order to collect her required data. If you would be happy for your son or daughter to partake in this project,

please can I ask you to follow this link: [Parental Consent](#)

In addition, Helen's letter to parents can be found via this [link](#).

Both Tom Burns (Vice-Principal) and Nicky Morris (School Counsellor) have been working with Helen in order to best plan how students will complete these questionnaires and will continue to work and support her throughout this project.

We are looking forward to working with Helen as she completes her dissertation.

Concerts and Events Guide

We are excited to be able to share with you our new online Concerts and Events Guide!

The guide, which replaces our termly print publication, will

be updated in real time and feature details of all Purcell events in and out of School from lunchtime concerts, masterclasses and evening recitals to festival appearances,

instrumental days, open mornings and outreach projects.

To take a look, please click [here](#).

Tasmin Little Masterclass

On Wednesday 25th January at 7pm, acclaimed international violinist Tasmin Little OBE will visit Purcell to give an inspiring masterclass to our string players. The event, which is also open to the public,

will feature performances of Messiaen, Korngold and Tchaikovsky from Year 13 violinists Jessica, Frankie and Barbare.

The masterclass will be

followed by an intimate drinks reception at 9pm. If you are in attendance, we would be delighted if you could join us and meet Tasmin in person.

Forthcoming London Concerts

We have two particularly special events coming up in the first quarter of this year, both of which happen to fall on Monday 6th . . . albeit a month apart!

The first is our annual visit to **Cadogan Hall** on **Monday 6th February** at 7.30pm. Our Symphony Orchestra - all of whom are busy rehearsing - will perform under the baton of guest conductor Natalia Luis-Bass, with soloist Beste Gürkey

on marimba. Beste is a recent alumna and joint-winner of the School's Senior Concerto Competition, 2022. The programme highlights works by Gabriela Ortiz, Séjourné and Debussy, as well as Purcell's own Simon Speare.

Tickets are now on sale from the venue's box office [here](#).

The second event is on **Monday 6th March** and will see **Purcell's Jazz Ensembles**

performing with special guest saxophonist Derek Nash at the **Pizza Express Jazz Club** in Soho.

Doors open at 6.30pm, with an evening of Nash's jazz and funk influenced compositions beginning at 8pm.

Tickets are on sale from the venue's box office [here](#). They are selling swiftly, so please book soon to avoid disappointment.

With all good wishes



Paul Bambrough
Principal

