

# PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

23rd March 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This has been the most remarkable half term of both activity and achievement. Students and staff have worked tirelessly to mount an impressive series of events of every variety: musical, academic and pastoral. In all cases our students have acquitted themselves impressively and it is always simply astonishing to see what they achieve. It has been an exhausting half term and I am sure that everyone will value some time for rest and renewal before embarking on the summer term and, for many, the rigours of public examinations. This half term's newsletter is lengthy, but includes lots of information about next term, so please take the time to read it carefully.

## Last Day of Term: Friday 24th March

The last meal of the term for students and staff will be served from 12.40pm on Friday

24th March, which will enable students to have a (light) lunch before the onward journey

home if they wish.

## Student CPR Training

In the course of the next year, and as part of PE / PSHE lessons, students are going to be given the opportunity to learn basic CPR techniques, in a module of study specially

adapted for use with young people and led by our nursing team. We hope that these important skills will never have to be put to use, but that knowledge and training will

empower students to respond promptly and maturely if ever they encounter an emergency, and that they may be inspired to further First Aid training.

## Coronation Weekend: Saturday 6th to Monday 8th May Inclusive

A reminder that all students are welcome to spend the weekend plus the additional Monday Bank Holiday at home with parents or guardians. However, for those boarders

who cannot leave, they are welcome to stay in house. There will be no formal teaching on the Bank Holiday Monday, and Day Students are not expected to come to

school. Onsite activities are planned for any boarding students who choose to remain.

# For Parents of Boarding Students

This has been another busy boarding term! As well as all their usual musical and academic activities, boarders have been: playing football, planting bulbs, hunting for (plastic) ducks (and hoping to win the fluffy goose!), tie-dyeing tote bags, decorating stress balls, celebrating Chinese New Year, tasting green food for St Patrick's Day, eating Welsh cakes for St David's Day...as well as all the usual celebrations for birthdays and the seemingly endless pool, table tennis and Fifa tournaments.

It was wonderful to see our senior student leaders raising money for charity through their Valentine flowers initiative, and also to see so many students, Day and Boarding, taking part in World Book Day with some fantastically imaginative and colourful costumes. The Student Leadership Team are already planning social events for next term, following the success of their Christmas disco. Meanwhile, the front of

the school is now filled with spring plants that have just broken through, having been planted by boarders over several weekends earlier in the year.

Just a few points to note:

Parents are always welcome to visit their children, but are reminded that it is always important to let houseparents know if you plan to visit, and when you are onsite. This means that we can ensure there is always someone in house to meet you, and can also ensure that you and your child can meet, given the busy day and evening schedule that our students follow!

Looking ahead to the end of the Summer Term, and the long break, parents are reminded that all student rooms in the boarding houses need to be cleared. We can offer a limited amount of storage over the school holidays, for international students' possessions, but

this is restricted to those in Year 9-12. Year 13 students are unable to store their possessions in school over the summer and should make arrangements to either take everything home OR have it transported on to their 'next stage' destination.

Students in Avison (as in the senior houses) can personalise their dorm areas to make them feel more 'homely' and we would love them to do this! If students would like to bring back posters, photos, postcards etc, for their wallboards, and use their own (named) duvets etc then they are warmly encouraged to do so next term. We look forward to some bright and colourful decorations in Avison dorms in the summer!



## Study Leave Arrangements: Year 11

Up until half term:

- Year 11 students will be required to attend all timetabled classroom lessons until half term. Where exams in any given subject have finished, the lesson time will be given over to supervised revision.
- Students who have an afternoon examination on any given day are excused attendance from lessons after break on that day.

After half term:

- After half term, teachers will be on hand in classrooms during timetabled lessons, such that students can access academic support and supervised, quiet revision spaces.

It is the expectation that independent revision during the taught day takes place inside; in classrooms, practice rooms, the ICT room or in bedsits (after break) - where academic resources and support are more readily available, and the formal setting promotes better concentration. All students should be out of the boarding house between breakfast and morning break.

After half term, parents of boarding students may seek permission for their children to be absent from school on study leave (with parents or guardians), in longer gaps between examinations and music commitments. Permission should be sought in the usual way, using the [studentabsence@purcell-school.org](mailto:studentabsence@purcell-school.org) email address.

We expect that:

- Students board in house on the night before a morning exam.
- Students continue to fulfil their musical commitments, including attending scheduled instrumental lessons and rehearsals. As always, good communication is crucial in resolving possible clashes and enabling appropriate absences to be sanctioned.

## Study Leave Arrangements: Year 13

Up until half term:

- Year 13 students are required to attend all timetabled classroom lessons until half term. Where exams in any given subject have finished the lesson time will be given over to supervised revision.
- Students who have an afternoon examination on any given day are excused attendance from lessons after break on that day.

After half term:

- After half term, teachers will be on hand in classrooms during timetabled lessons, such that students can access academic support and supervised, quiet revision spaces.

It is the expectation that independent revision during the taught day takes place inside; in classrooms, practice rooms, the ICT room, Sixth Form CR, or in bedsits (after break) - where academic resources and support are

more readily available, and the formal setting promotes better concentration. All students should be out of the boarding house between breakfast and morning break.

After half term, parents of boarding students may seek permission for their children to be absent from school on study leave (with parents or guardians), in longer gaps between examinations and music commitments. Permission should be sought in the usual way, using the [studentabsence@purcell-school.org](mailto:studentabsence@purcell-school.org) email address.

We expect that:

- Students board in house on the night before a morning exam.
- Students continue to fulfil their musical commitments, including attending scheduled instrumental lessons and rehearsals. As always, good communication is crucial in resolving possible clashes and enabling appropriate absences to be sanctioned.

Study leave after half term would thus work as follows:

- **Academic Lessons**  
Classroom teaching staff will remain available in their timetabled lessons until all examinations in their subject have been completed. Staff can require specific students to attend classes if necessary,

or offer general revision/  
drop-in sessions

- **Day Students**  
Day Students would remain at home except for specific examinations or timetabled lessons (including instrumental lessons), or to use the specified study spaces within the school. They must sign in and out as usual, but should not be coming and going over the course of a day (once in they should expect to remain in until they have finished their last commitment of the day)
- **Boarders**  
Boarders who remain in school are required to adhere to the usual school routine (be up and signed in with house staff at 8am, and be out of house until morning break) Study spaces will be made

available to boarders who remain in school. Boarders may not leave the school site other than at the usual times (Monday - Sunday).

Boarders who opt to study at home must liaise with their houseparent to ensure the school know when they will be onsite and when they will be at home. Boarders must ensure that they sign in and out on each occasion of authorised home study.

A series of musical activities will be arranged for the period following exams, which will include students from both Year 11 and Year 13. Schedules and list of participants will be discussed with students and advertised in the first half of the summer term.

## Staffing

We are sorry to say goodbye to Miss Stevie Mitchell who has taught Maths here with such enthusiasm, charisma and assurance since 2019. Miss Mitchell has also served

as Academic Coordinator for Years 10/11. Despite being very sad to see her go, we are delighted that she goes on to become Head of Maths at another school - a fitting role

for someone of her gifts and abilities. I would like to thank Miss Mitchell for all she has given the School and wish her well in the future.



# Concerts and Events, Summer Term 2023

Further details of programmes, performers and ticket arrangements will appear on the school website as usual, and the concerts office will contact those involved in each concert separately. Please could parents and students take note now of evening and weekend events, and plan

accordingly, particularly for the larger groups. Rehearsals will take place in school, mostly during school time. However, the orchestral and choral concerts may well require some additional evenings, and we will confirm these shortly. Events in June will follow in a few days.

Please note that some of the days and timings listed below are subject to change. When in doubt, do check the Concerts and Events Guide on the School's website [here](#) for the most up to date detail.

April		
Wednesday 19 April	12.30 - 6.30pm	Royal Opera House
Sixth Form singers and choral conductors to attend ROH Chorus rehearsal with Sir Antonio Pappano		
Wednesday 19 April	7pm	CP Hall
Middle School and Lower School Choirs conducted by Ed Longstaff		
Schubert Mass in G		
Thursday 20 April	5pm	St Albans Cathedral
Choral Evensong		
Chamber Choir conducted by Ed Longstaff Howells St Paul's Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis Rose Responses Patrick Hadley's 'My Beloved Spake'		
Friday 21 April	1pm	Elgar Room, University of Birmingham
Barber Lunchtime Concert Series		
Dohnanyi Serenade (Dominic, Tiffany, Lindsey) Rachmaninoff Trio Elegiaque (Benji, Henny, Seb) Franck Piano Quintet (Henny, Dominic, Fiona, Ella, Thomas)		
Friday 21 April	4.30-6.30pm	CP Hall
Choral Conducting masterclass: Patrick Russill (RAM)		
Sixth Form Choir Student conductors Schubert Mass in G		

Sunday 23 April	6.30pm	CP Hall
<p>Concerto Competition Grand Final</p> <p>Korngold Violin Concerto (Frankie Davies, DebS)  Bartok Rhapsody for Violin and Orchestra (Hana McDowell, DebS)  Gliere Horn Concerto (Chloe Harrison, DanS)  Martinu Oboe Concerto (Ekaterina Chunikhina, DebS)  Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue (Benji Lock, FM)  Lalo Cello Concerto (Emma Price, DanS)  Accompanists: Debbie Shah, Daniel Swain and Florian Mitrea</p>		
Monday 24 April	11am	Elton House Care Home
Monday 24 April	4pm	Recital Room
<p>Brass Masterclass: Amos Miller, trombone (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)</p>		
Monday 24 April	7pm	Recital Room
<p>Charity Concert in aid of Stonewall, in memory of Brianna Ghey</p> <p>Francisca Davies and friends</p>		
Tuesday 25 April	1pm	Wigmore Hall
<p>Dohnanyi Serenade (Dominic, Tiffany, Lindsey)  Danzi Wind Quintet (Suanoi, Birce, Tom, Sacha, Chloe)  Rachmaninoff Trio Elegiaque (Benji, Henny, Seb)  Franck Piano Quintet (Henny, Dominic, Fiona, Ella, Thomas)</p>		
Tuesday 25 April	5.30-6.15pm	Liszt Room
<p>Sarah-Jane Bradley Solo Viola Recital</p>		
Wednesday 26 April	10am-1pm	
<p>Masterclass: Aaron Minsky, Cello</p>		
Wednesday 26 April	2pm-5pm	
<p>Masterclass: Julian Lloyd Webber, Cello and chamber music</p>		
Wednesday 26 April	7pm	CP Hall
<p>An evening with Julian Lloyd Webber - Private exclusive event</p>		
Thursday 27 April	4pm	
<p>Lecture by Nicholas Swett, the great grandson of Irving Berlin</p> <p>Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and the development of themes in Rhapsody in Blue</p>		

# May

Wednesday 3 May	7pm	Jazz, Pop and Commercial Suite
Jazz Concert  Year 13 Jazz students perform their own transcription of the album Blues and the Abstract Truth by Oliver Nelson		
Thursday 4 May	7pm	CP Hall
Baroque Concert  Y 12 and Y 13 Baroque Ensembles Brandenburg Concerto 4 (soloists: Rowena, April and Hana) Telemann Concerto for 3 oboes and 3 violins Bach Concerto for flute, violin and Hpsd Vivaldi Concerto for 2 recorders, 2 oboes, 2 violins and bassoon		
Friday 5 May	12.30pm	St John's Boxmoor
Lunchtime Concert		
Wednesday 10 May	7pm	CP Hall
Middle School Concert  Soloists from Years 9 and 10		
Thursday 11 May	7-9pm	CP Hall
James Gilchrist (Tenor) Masterclass		
Saturday 13 May	7.30pm	St Mary's Church, Henley-on-Thames
Chiltern Arts Festival  James Gilchrist tenor Jaren Ziegler viola Chloe Harrison horn Paul Hoskins conductor Purcell School String Orchestra Elgar Serenade for Strings Britten Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings, John Woolrich Ulysses Awakes Walton Two pieces from Henry V Mozart Eine kleine Nachtmusik New work by students/Joe Howard		
Sunday 14 May		
Brass and Percussion Taster Day		

Monday 15 May	3pm	Benslow Music Trust
Afternoon Concert		
Tuesday 16 May	3pm	Heathdene Manor Care Home
Wednesday 17 May		
Masterclass: Boris Petrushansky, Piano		
Thursday 18 May	11am	Elton House Care Home
Saturday 20 May	7pm	Castle Village
Monday 22 May	7pm	CP Hall
Piano Department Sixth Form concert Rachmaninoff Six Moments Musicaux, Op. 16 Rachmaninoff Études-Tableaux, Op. 33		
Tuesday 23 May	11am	Bushey House Care Home
Wednesday 24 May	7pm	Recital Room
Mitsu Piano Trio Concert  New Work by Purcell students		
Thursday 24 May	5pm	
Singing Masterclass: Paul Wingfield and Louise Crane (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)		
Friday 25 May	10.40am-12.40pm	Recital Room
Lower School Competition		
Friday 25 May - Weds 30th May		Italy and Romania
Piano tour to Verona, Brescia, Bucharest and Brasov		
<b>June</b>		
Monday 19th June		
Masterclass: Natalia Trull, piano		
Wednesday 21st June	4-6pm	CP Hall
Choral Conducting Masterclass, Opera Choruses  Sixth Form Choir		



Friday 23rd June	3pm	Recital Room
Lower School Concert		
Monday 26th June	7pm	CP Hall
Piano Recital by Y 13 pianists Thomas Wang, Djordje Jovanovich, Benji Lock, Ozel Gunhanlar, Anastasia Gould		
Tuesday 27th June	TBC	
Purcell Composers @ 60 Musical Trails and Unusual Spaces Creative Ensemble concert		
Wednesday 28th June	7.30pm	St James's Church, Piccadilly
Piano Department Concert		
Wednesday 28th June	7.30pm	Watford Palace Theatre
Jazz, Pop and Commercial Concert Stefan Redtenbacher arrangements for Big Band, strings and singer		
Thursday 29th June	7.30pm	Proms at St Jude's, Hampstead
James Gilchrist tenor Chloe Harrison horn Paul Hoskins conductor Purcell School Chamber Orchestra Elgar Serenade for Strings Britten Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings, Mahler Adagietto from Symphony no 5 Beethoven Symphony no 2		
Thursday 29th June	TBC	CP Hall and/or RR
Comp comp		
Friday 30th June	TBC	
Philomel Orchestra		

# July

Sunday 2nd July	3pm	Lees Court, Faversham
Solo or Chamber Recital - TBC		
Sunday 2nd July	7pm	CP Hall
Musical Madness - TBC		
Monday 3rd July		
Masterclass: Naomi Sullivan, saxophone		
Monday 3rd July	12pm	Clumber Studio
Chamber Music Concert		
Monday 3rd July	7pm	CP Hall
Purcell Composers@60 Purcell Parallels III		
Midsummer Meze		
Monday 3rd July	7pm	The Horns, Watford
Purcell School Session Bands Gig		
Tuesday 4th July	7pm	CP Hall
Rachmaninoff 150 Concert		
Chamber Choir, Ed Longstaff Symphonic Wind Orchestra, Ryan Hepburn 6th form pianists Lower School Choir, Irina Walters Trio Elegiaque (Henrietta, Benji, Sebastian)		
Thursday 6th July	7.30pm	CP Hall
SIM Concert		

With all good wishes



Paul Bambrough  
Principal

