

# PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

4th July 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Here we are again: facing the end of another academic year that seems to have come around far too quickly. Maybe it's an age thing or maybe its a symptom of our ever increasing productivity (or a combination of both), but the years do seem to be passing more quickly the longer I am here!

I cannot find the words to express just how proud I am of our school, of all the achievements of our students and the achievements of our staff. I find the creativity, commitment and professionalism our students bring to their musical activities (even the very youngest students) is truly inspiring. And let's not forget that alongside the astonishing quality and quantity of music achievements, they are also fulfilling their academic obligations, too. But the overwhelmingly impressive characteristic of this place is just how nice and mutually supportive our students are of each other and of the projects and experiences we provide.

It has been lovely to have been seeing so many of you regularly back in school (and other venues) supporting our young people. We greatly appreciate your support and thank you for all you do to help us achieve all the amazing things that go on here.

For those of you for whom this year represents the end of your time as a current parent, please know that you are always welcome here and we always enjoy hearing about the successes of our former students as they move on to the next stage of their lives. Do stay in touch: either by attending events, keeping in touch, becoming a Friend or by considering becoming a supporter or donor.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you on Friday for our final assembly and Prize-Giving and I wish you a wonderful summer break, when it comes.

## Staff Leavers

As always at this time of year, a number of staff will be retiring or moving on. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all they have contributed to the

life and work of the school during their time here. I am also delighted to confirm that we have been fortunate in securing some exceptionally

talented and experienced staff to succeed all those who are leaving us.

Member of Staff	Job Title
Darrell Pigott	Head of History
Adam Simmonds	Teacher of English
Susanna Alsey	Resident Graduate Assistant (RGA)
Albert Owen	RGA

Sophie Baxter	RGA
Seana McEvoy	Artist in Residence
Troy Kartarahardia	Music Tech Department Assistant
Stephen Coombs	Teacher of Piano
Lorna Griggs	Houseparent of NBH
George Hogg	Teacher of Jazz Trumpet
Arta Nika	Teacher of French (maternity cover)
Bethany Wright	Concert Manager

## Director of Boarding

Lady Kate Cayley will be moving on from the school at the end of the autumn term to enjoy a more relaxed lifestyle in the beautiful Northeast. I am delighted to announce that we have appointed Jane Mitchell as Kate's successor who joins the School staff in September to overlap with Kate. Jane is an incredibly well-qualified and experienced senior leader who has worked in a variety of roles in a variety of different situations. Students and some staff met Jane at her interview and were all impressed by her warmth and wisdom. Jane will be with us in person during the first week of the new academic year and thereafter will work largely remotely for the rest of the term, with some visits to the school.

Jane writes to introduce herself:

*'I am so delighted to have the opportunity to work at The Purcell School. I have a wealth of pastoral expertise having enjoyed seven years as a Houseparent at Repton School in Derbyshire and five years at Lord Wandsworth College. More recently I was Director of*

*Wellbeing and Head of PSHEE at Lord Wandsworth College. We won the Independent School of the Year Award for Student Wellbeing in 2020 for our comprehensive and compassionate approach to the wellbeing of our students.*

*Nurturing young people and being able to walk alongside them as they find their place in the world has always been an honour. It is a complex and sometimes confusing world for young people and I believe they need strong role-models who are empathic listeners, full of hope for the future and able to make them feel valued whilst building the foundations for a strong sense of self-worth.*

*I have worked in a wide variety of schools from state comprehensive to private schools both in the UK and abroad and each school has taught me something new. I have also learnt so much from the young people I have worked with both in the classroom and in the boarding house. I have travelled extensively and worked with*

*socio-economically disadvantaged children and teenagers in Ecuador, Nepal and Italy, as well as teaching in the Calais Refugee camp.*

*Working at The Purcell School is a new challenge, and I am so excited to get to know each student next year and to ensure that their boarding experience continues to be exactly what they need to support them and care for them whilst on their journey at The Purcell School. The students who interviewed me and showed me round the school certainly inspired me. They were so charismatic, thoughtful, honest and kind (and super talented!). I am full of optimism for the years ahead, despite my obvious lack of musical talent!!'*

## Exams

If your son or daughter is expecting to receive GCSE or A Level exam results in the summer, please ensure you have read all the information

which was recently sent by Lisa Canosa, our Exams Officer. This outlines when results will be available, how students can access them and what to do if

you wish to discuss the results after publication. The information is also available on the website [here](#).

## Final Assembly and BBQ

We are looking forward to seeing many of you this Friday 7th July for our end of year assembly and BBQ. The assembly will begin at 11am on the lawn outside Avison House followed by a BBQ at midday

before the School closes at 3pm.

When you arrive, please enter using the rear of the school on Bushey Mill Lane. The gate will be open and you will be

greeted and shown where to park.

For those who require disabled parking, please enter at the front of the school on Aldenham Road.

## Beginning of the Year

Just a reminder that the School reopens for returning boarders from 1800 hrs on Sunday 3rd

September. Thank you to those individual students and their families who have agreed

to return a day earlier to assist with welcoming new students to the School.

With all good wishes for a lovely summer,  
Best wishes



Paul Bambrough  
Principal