

PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

8th September

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It was lovely to meet so many new members of the Purcell community last weekend and to catch up with parents of returning students. For those I didn't see, I hope you have had a wonderful summer and will look forward to seeing you soon at an event or a concert.

Start of the Year

The School year seems to have started very smoothly. Our students appear to have settled into the School extremely quickly and in many ways present as if they have been here for considerably longer than a few days! There will still be a lot of unanswered questions and uncertainty for these students and we continue to remind them that

this is quite normal and that they should just ask if they are unsure. Please don't be too concerned at this stage if they report these uncertainties to you - it is all still very new - and we would be grateful if you would encourage them to approach us with any questions they have. If you have any questions or concerns arising from this

first week, please feel free to approach the most appropriate person to answer these. The Parent Handbook has a handy directory of the best people to contact for specific questions.

Communication

The School has a number of ways to help parents keep abreast of what's been happening and what's coming up:

The Concerts and Events

Guide: This is available [here](#) and includes all details of internal and external musical events.

Weekly Highlights: This is published via the [website](#) and social media, and is where we celebrate the achievements of our students, staff and alumni. Please email publicity@purcell-school.org

to let us know of any particular successes which take place out of School because we love to include them in this when we can.

The Parents' Newsletter: This is an informational publication which comes out usually once each half term, but sometimes when there is particular information to pass on.

School Post: This is the vehicle through which notifications and information is sent to parents.

The School's **social media**

accounts act as a window into our daily life and will give you a good flavour of what's happening daily. The handles for each platform are:

Twitter: [@PurcellSchool](#)

Instagram: [the_purcell_school](#)

Facebook: [The Purcell School](#)

Principal's Update: A School Post communication with the subject heading **Principal's Update** will indicate an important or urgent message which all parents should read. This heading will only be used for important matters that apply to everyone. If you see

such a message, please read it as soon as you possibly can because it may contain time-sensitive information that you need to know.

Principal's Vlog: This is a new initiative for this year in which I plan to record a short, regular and very informal vlog

giving some insights and/or reflections on different aspects of our work and sharing some of the things going on within the School (such as assembly and tutorial themes, academic and musical projects and visitors, philosophy, plans for the future etc). I'm not at all media savvy so they might be a

bit "homespun" to begin with, but I hope you might enjoy my musings as we progress through the coming year. I'll start these next week and a link will be sent to each new vlog with the Weekly Highlights notification.

Purcell "Family" Expectations and Ambitions Survey

Throughout this week, students and staff have been asked to reflect on their experience of School life, what's important to them and how they feel at the start of the year. The intention is to give me a snap-shot of what is important to us as a community and I will use this

information to shape and inform some of our priorities and initiatives throughout the year. I would like to invite you to participate by completing a parent version of this survey so that the exercise is truly reflective of the whole school community. The survey can be found [here](#), is anonymous

and it will be open until the end of Wednesday 13th September. The more people who complete it, the more meaningful and helpful it will be to me. I will report back some of the headlines in a future newsletter.

Parent Consultation Meetings

The dates for these are as follows:

17th November:	Y12
26th January:	Y11
16th February:	Y13
8th March:	Y9
15th March:	Y10
3rd May:	Y7/8

An Evening with Paul and Paul

Those who are able to travel into school are invited to join Paul Hoskins, Director of Music and myself, for an informal Q&A evening (along with a drink) on Tuesday 10th October from 6.30 to 7.30pm. The purpose of the evening will be for us to say a little about the coming year and

to take general questions and feedback. We won't be able to deal with issues specific to individuals in a public setting, but it will be a good opportunity to learn more about your experiences and take suggestions for us to consider. Most importantly, it will be an opportunity to

spend some time together without having the pressure of having a concert to run and to welcome in the new academic year. So that we can manage the catering, please book your place(s) [here](#).

Safeguarding at Purcell

As part of our desire to ensure that your children are safe, happy and healthy whilst at Purcell, we have a strong pastoral and safeguarding team who work across the school to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, have the best outcomes. We at Purcell believe that all students have a right to be safeguarded from harm and exploitation regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender or disability. Every member of staff is trained in Safeguarding and Child Protection in order to better recognise children in need and to help accordingly.

Our Safeguarding Team is headed by **Ziggi Szafranski**, who is the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead, or **DSL**.

His deputy DSLs are **Paul Bambrough** (Principal), **Tom Burns** (Vice Principal), **Lady Kate Cayley** (Director of Boarding), **Paul Hoskins** (Director of Music), **Sally-Ann Whitty** (SENCO), and **Debbie Shah** (Accompanist). They work with the wider pastoral team, which includes Houseparents and other House staff, the Medical Team (School Nurses **Hilary Austin** and **Carol Morgan**, School Counsellor **Nicky Morris** and Physiotherapist **Dr. Sarah Upjohn**) and the students' Tutors.

On the school website, we have a section dedicated to Current Parents (accessible directly via [this link](#)) which contains some fact sheets that

we have produced to help you understand some of the challenges facing children. We will be adding to these periodically so do check back and have a look. If you want more information on anything please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

If you have any questions about Safeguarding, or want to raise something with the team, you can always email safeguarding@purcell-school.org at any time, or call the school office on 01923 331100 during office hours. There is always a member of the team on site whenever students are here and we are always happy to help.

I am looking forward to an exciting and inspiring year ahead and much look forward to seeing you soon.

With all good wishes



Paul Bambrough
Principal

