

PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

16th February 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This half term seems to have zoomed by even faster than normal! Whether this is as a consequence of it being so busy or my advancing years (thank you for all the birthday wishes!), I'm not sure but certainly it's been an exhilarating half term. Despite my best intentions, I have been spectacularly hopeless in trying to maintain the Principal's Vlog - I must do better - and thank you to those who have pointed out that it has been missed!

Since Mrs Noonan arrived as our new Head of PE, we have seen an enthusiastic response to an increased programme of sport, gym and other activities. After half term, we will also be introducing some new voluntary PE sessions into the timetable for the Sixth Form and, in an effort to demonstrate that anyone can take up exercise no matter their level of fitness (or lack thereof!) I have agreed to embark on a 4 week fitness challenge next half term in which I will be coached by a team of volunteer student coaches. I'm not sure whether this is brave or stupid (I guess we'll find out soon enough), but I hope it might encourage some of our more reluctantly energetic students to "give it a go" and feel the positive benefits as a result. No doubt this will become a subject of a future Vlog or occasional social media post.

As we approach the break, it's clear that many students are really tired and a bit frustrated. Please encourage them and allow them to get some quality rest over the half term. Coming back to school refreshed and reinvigorating is by far the best thing for them.

Orchestral Course and St Johns Smith Square

Thank you to all parents and guardians who supported the orchestral rehearsals and concerts last weekend. It was excellent to have an almost 100% attendance for every rehearsal, and especially good for the orchestra to play to a sold-out concert hall. The orchestra really rose to the occasion and gave a performance that they will remember for a very long time.

We have two more big concerts in London this year, and I would really appreciate your help: we need to sell a lot of tickets, and they are big venues! Please tell your friends, relations and anyone near to London who might like to come along. One is later this month at lunchtime, the other is a Grand Summer Concert in the magnificent Southwark Cathedral in June, and promises to be a musical

social highlight of the year. The sooner you book, the better we can plan our own marketing to the public, and I wouldn't want you to find out too late that this had sold out too.

The Purcell School
for young musicians

LUNCHTIME CONCERT
WIGMORE HALL

WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2024 - 1.00PM

NATHANIEL MERKIES GUITAR
ROCCO DAL CIN GUITAR
YU-WEI HUANG VIOLIN
ANTONIA ZADRAG VIOLIN
JUNYO DIANNA KIM VIOLA
IVAN CHEREDNICHENKO CELLO
DOMINIC LUCIAN DRUTAC VIOLIN
LINDSEY LIM CELLO
HERMAN MED CERISHA PIANO

REBECCA NICOLAS VIOLIN
TORI LI VIOLIN
DANYA RUSHTON VIOLA
ELLA HARRISON CELLO
IVANNA OLIINYK CELLO

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA TANGO SUITE
JOAQUÍN TURINA LA ORACIÓN DEL TORERO, OP.34
MENDELSSOHN PIANO TRIO NO. 2
IN C MINOR, OP. 66
SCHUBERT STRING QUINTET IN C

BOOK ONLINE - WIGMORE-HALL.ORG.UK
TICKETS £18, CONCS £16, £4 BOOKING FEE

WIGMORE HALL, 36 WIGMORE ST, LONDON W1U 2BP



The Purcell School
for young musicians

GRAND SUMMER CONCERT

THURSDAY 27 JUNE, 7.30PM
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

THE PURCELL SCHOOL ORCHESTRA & CHOIR
WAYNE MARSHALL ORGAN
EDWARD LONGSTAFF CONDUCTOR
PAUL HOSKINS CONDUCTOR
SUSANNA FAIRBAIRN SOPRANO
EMMA CARRINGTON MEZZO SOPRANO
PAUL AUSTIN KELLY TENOR
ANDREW GREENAN BASS

BRUCKNER ECCE SACERDOS MAGNUS
POULENC ORGAN CONCERTO IN G MINOR
BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO.9

TICKETS FROM £20
SCAN HERE

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL
LONDON BRIDGE, LONDON SE1 9DA



World Book Day 2024

This year, we will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 7th March**. At Purcell, we strive to foster a love of literature and World Book Day is a great opportunity to celebrate the joy of books and reading. Last year saw many staff and students dressing up but we hope to outdo that by having even more inspiring costumes

and commitment this year. We will be having a school photo taken at lunch with any students and staff who dress up so please get creative!

We would like all students to bring their favourite book, or a book they are currently reading, into school on this day. Additionally, we are inviting students and staff to

dress up as a favourite book character or author. Students will also take part in reading-themed activities throughout the day.

We are excited to share a passion for reading and literature and cannot wait to see some inspiring costumes!

Let's All Talk Mental Health

Welcome to the Let's all Talk Mental Health February & March sessions designed to help parents and caregivers in supporting their teenagers.

Here's what is coming up:

Monday 19th February, 8pm: Is Technology Hurting Teens?

There have been some distressing headlines in the news recently regarding the devastating harm caused by online bullying and targeting

of teenagers. We've invited **Graham Lowe, Safeguarding Lead Consultant** and online safety subject-specialist for South West Grid for Learning to lead the conversation on what he sees as the potential impact of technology on the health and well-being of teenagers. We want to hear the good, the bad and how we can encourage our young ones to explore, discern and keep safe.

Monday 26th February, 8pm: Ask Away - Q&A for Parents & Carers

This is a great opportunity to engage with a specialist and join Let's all Talk Mental Health for a dedicated 60 minutes with in-house clinical psychologist, **Dr Sarah-Jane Knight**. This session provides you with a chance to get answers to your questions about your teenager and their mental health. Dr Sarah-Jane possesses a remarkable

superpower for offering practical and relatable insights, backed by her incredible experience in working with young adolescents.

Watch out for more information on the March sessions:

**Monday 4th March, 8pm:
Getting Help for Teen Gaming Addiction**

**Monday 11th March, 8pm:
Helping a Teen Who Self-Harms**

**Monday 18th March, 8pm:
Understanding Emotional Based School Avoidance & Autism**

Safeguarding

Each February we, alongside many other schools and organisations, celebrate Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety and is celebrated globally each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Safer Internet Day is celebrated in over a hundred countries coordinated by the joint Insafe/INHOPE network, with the support of the European Commission, and national Safer Internet Centres across Europe.

Keeping children and young people safe online is an ever

**Monday 25th March, 8pm:
Negative Thinking Traps and Teens: How to Help**

Let's all Talk Mental Health is pausing their live schedule during the half term holiday. Remember as a parent of Purcell School, you have free access to the **Let's all Talk Mental Health** hub if you need some extra help. The hub stays open 24 hours a day, all year round, offering insight and conversation starters from over 40 of the most engaging expert speakers, providing parents and carers with a steady flow of support.

If you're new to the Let's all Talk Mental Health hub, please

evolving picture and, given the speed of change within the digital sphere, it can be easy to be overwhelmed by the risks online and knowing where to seek help and advice is vital. Whilst you are always welcome to get in touch with us directly by email (safeguarding@purcell-school.org) we would also like to point you towards other resources that you can access directly.

There is no doubt that social media plays an integral part in young peoples' lives today. Many of us will engage in social media, although the platforms we use likely differ to those of our children. In January, whilst 81.4% of the UK population used Facebook, there were fewer than 1000 users aged 13-17. However, when one looks at Instagram there is a significant shift

register for your Free Purcell School Access Pass [HERE](#). If you're a returning guest, here is an easy access link to the hub: [Let's all Talk Mental Health](#)

Please contact hello@letsalltalkmentalhealth.co.uk if you require help accessing the portal.

We hope you find these offerings helpful.

and whilst official figures have not been published for Snapchat or TikTok, it is clear that these apps are where significant numbers of young people interact online. Most of the commonly used social networking sites, due to laws in the USA where they are based, have an age restriction of 13. Underage accounts can be reported to the most common social networking services by a young person's parent or guardian and will be removed promptly once the report is received. However, it's worth noting that once an account is removed, all the data that was on the account (e.g. images) will also be deleted with it.

Whilst we cannot police everything that our young people do online, we can guide them to protect themselves and their information. The

Southwest Grid for Learning has produced some excellent downloadable resources to help with managing privacy and security on a wide range of social media platforms, which you can access [here](#). It is also important that young people and adults know how to report privacy violations on the platforms they use, as well as a wider range of harmful content that they encounter online. For advice on reporting privacy violations you can find a wide

range of guidance for apps and websites [here](#), as well as much more information on www.reportharmfulcontent.com.

Finally, we have produced a number of our own factsheets for parents and guardians to find out more about specific safeguarding information. We will update these as and when there are more requests for information from you so please, if you have anything you'd like us to produce more

information on, do email safeguarding@purcell-school.org and we'll get something uploaded for you. For current factsheets please head to the [Current Parents section of the school website](#) which will be where all new information will be uploaded as it arrives.

With all good wishes



Paul Bambrough
Principal

