

PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 17th September 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Having now run through the first complete week of term it seems a good moment to send out the first of this year's Parent Newsletters.

I am pleased to say that the first week has run very smoothly with very few issues - logistical or otherwise. Our new students have settled into school life very quickly and seem to be establishing new friendships and our returning students have done an excellent job helping them feel welcome. There are always a few minor, individual ups and downs in the first few weeks, but we are well able to manage these as they arise.

Instrumental lessons start this week and this adds a further layer of complexity to the timetable and for new students to navigate. If they suggest to you that they are unsure where and when they need to be, please get in touch with your Houseparent and ask them to help guide them. We do expect our students to take an unusual amount of personal responsibility for managing their way around their commitments and this is an important "life lesson" for them. By and large they rise to this challenge fantastically; and where they do not, we're here to step in and support.

I'll take this opportunity to reiterate that if you are concerned about something, or if you are not sure whether something your son or daughter has told you seems right, please get in touch and share your concerns with us. It's much easier to fix a small problem when it is still a small problem; leaving it and letting it grow into something much bigger, always makes it harder to manage. The [Parent Handbook](#) has a handy list of who to contact with specific questions.

Communication

For those new to the School, we tend to use SchoolPost for our generic messaging to parents and email/phone to individuals. This Parent Newsletter is published roughly once every half term, but only if there is information to pass on. Our [Weekly Highlights](#) publication is where we regularly celebrate the

achievements of our students, alumni and staff. Occasionally, it is necessary to get an urgent or important message out to all parents or a group of parents. On these occasions, the title of the SchoolPost messages will be "Principal's Update" followed by a subject. If you see this in a SchoolPost message, please read it as

soon as possible because it is likely to be important and possibly time sensitive.

Last year, I said that I was going to revisit my hugely popular Vlogs and then spectacularly failed to produce a single one. I am going to try to do better this year so watch this space...!

Parent Code of Conduct

We are pleased to enjoy good relationships with our parents and the triangle between you, your child and the school is crucial to a smooth school journey for all. However, like all schools, we have sadly seen an increase in aggressive and confrontational communication (either in writing, phone or

person) from a tiny number of parents. Because of this we have a [Parent Code of Conduct](#) which sets out the terms under which we will communicate with you. As well as having a duty of care towards our students, I also have a duty of care towards our staff, and the School will not tolerate

any abusive, aggressive or confrontational communication with staff. Where you have concerns, we will always treat these seriously, but they should be stated dispassionately, factually and respectfully. I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Academic Notices

It has been a fantastic start to the academic year, with students across all year groups showing real focus and commitment in their lessons. Teachers have been

impressed by the high levels of engagement and enthusiasm, and it has been wonderful to see pupils already working with such determination.

We would like to draw your attention to the following important dates for Parents' Evenings and assessment periods:

Parents' Evening Dates	
Autumn Term	
Friday 21st November 2025 (except weekend)	Year 12
Spring Term	
Friday 30th January 2026	Year 11
Friday 13th February 2026	Year 13
Friday 13th March 2026	Year 9
Friday 3rd April 2026	Years 7 and 8
Summer Term	
Friday 1st May 2026	Year 10

Students are formally assessed three times during

the academic year to track progress and help plan next

steps in their learning:

Assessment Weeks	
3rd November 2025	In-class assessments for all year groups
12th January 2026	Year 11 and 13 mock exams; Year 7-10 and 12 in-class assessments
8th June 2026	Year 10 and 12 core mock exams; all other year groups in-class assessments

Rosie McManus - New School Nurse

As returning parents will remember, Hilary Austin (our longstanding School Nurse) retired at the end of last academic year. We have been grateful to Hilary for returning to “hold the fort” for the first two weeks of term whilst awaiting the arrival of her successor.

I am delighted to say that Rosie McManus joins us from Monday 22nd September. I will

be introducing her to students and colleagues at Assembly on Monday morning. Rosie is an extremely experienced medic who has spent many years working in a boarding school context as well as other healthcare settings. She brings with her a wealth of skills and experience which will be of real benefit to the school community. Rosie will also be residential so, working

alongside Nurse Carol (who is also residential), we will have exceptional 24/7 medical provision on site.

I know that you will join me in welcoming Rosie to the school and she will make herself known to you once she finds her way around.

Boarding

We had such a fun induction weekend starting on the Saturday with all the new boarders playing Capture the Flag together on the field after a social BBQ dinner with lots of chatter and new friendships made. On Sunday the new day students arrived and everyone had a comprehensive induction to the school and their boarding houses in order to make the first week run as smoothly as possible. In the afternoon all new students were led by

current students in a music activity with Paul Hoskins before an extraordinary evening concert with opera, pop and classical music from our current students who had just returned to school and found themselves on stage!

Last weekend all of Avison house joined older students in Ellington on Saturday evening for a family social night with Mario Kart, table tennis and Cinnamon the dog. Avison

enjoyed storytelling in the afternoon with Mr Caliendo whilst older students were enjoying exploring the local area. Co-curricular has started and students are enjoying book club, ultimate frisbee, crossfit and basketball to name a few! It is so good to see so many happy faces in the boarding houses in the evening and around school during the day.



A Message from the Concerts Department

Welcome to the Autumn Term 2025 at The Purcell School! We're already immersed in preparations for an exciting programme of concerts, both at prestigious external venues and in our own CP Hall and Recital Room.

Our next London concert of

the term will take place at the renowned Wigmore Hall on 24th September at 1pm. Our chamber soloists will present an all-Hungarian programme, featuring works by Haydn, Liszt, Bartók and Kurtág. If you are able to come, we would love to see you there, and if you know anyone who lives or

works in London, please tell them about it!

In October, our piano and strings departments will each hold their own concerts in CP Hall. In addition to concerts, there will be a variety of masterclasses taking place throughout the term.

 The Purcell School
for young musicians
Patron: HM The King

UPCOMING CONCERTS AUTUMN 25

DISCOVER THE EXTRAORDINARY TALENTS OF TOMORROW'S LEADING MUSICIANS

24 SEPTEMBER 1.00PM	WIGMORE HALL THE PURCELL CHAMBER SOLOISTS WIGMORE HALL, LONDON	26 SEPTEMBER 7.45PM	SARRATT FESTIVAL OF MUSIC RECITAL SARRATT VILLAGE HALL, SARRATT
11 OCTOBER 11.00AM	HATFIELD HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL FAMILY CONCERT HATFIELD HOUSE	07 NOVEMBER 1.00PM	UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LUNCHTIME CONCERT BIRMINGHAM, ELGAR CONCERT HALL
10 NOVEMBER 3.00PM	BENSLOW MUSIC TRUST AFTERNOON CONCERT BENSLOW MUSIC, HITCHIN	03 DECEMBER 1.00PM	ST MARY LE STRAND LUNCHTIME PIANO RECITAL ST MARY LE STRAND CHURCH, LONDON
05 DECEMBER 7.30PM	SOUTH HILL PARK VIOLIN AND PIANO RECITAL BRACKNELL	08 DECEMBER 5.00PM	ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL EVENSONG ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, LONDON

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW AND EXPERIENCE THE FUTURE OF MUSIC

EXPERIENCE MORE INCREDIBLE MUSIC AT THE PURCELL SCHOOL!

Join us for an inspiring programme of concerts, recitals and special events held throughout the year in prestigious venues and our own performing spaces.

Explore our full event calendar and book your tickets today!

[PURCELL-SCHOOL.ORG/NEW/CONCERT-EVENTS-GUIDE-CALENDAR](https://purcell-school.org/new/concert-events-guide-calendar)

SCAN FOR TICKET AND EVENT INFO



THE PURCELL SCHOOL, ALDENHAM ROAD, BUSHEY, HERTS WD23 2TS
01923 331100 [INFO@PURCELL-SCHOOL.ORG](mailto:info@purcell-school.org) [PURCELL-SCHOOL.ORG](https://purcell-school.org)

 The Purcell School
for young musicians
Patron: HM The King

Autumn 2025

PURCELL IN-HOUSE CONCERTS

ALL CONCERTS ARE IN THE CP HALL UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE

STRINGS DEPARTMENT CONCERT
WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 5PM

PIANO DEPARTMENT CONCERT
WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 5PM

COMPOSERS CONCERT
WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 7PM

WIND ORCHESTRA AND CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT
TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER, 1.10PM

JAZZ LUNCHTIME CONCERT
WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 1.10PM

WIND, BRASS AND PERCUSSION DEPARTMENT CONCERT
WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 5PM

LOWER SCHOOL CONCERT
FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2.45PM RECITAL ROOM

SESSION BANDS AND SONGWRITERS CONCERT
WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 7PM

JAZZ CONCERT
WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 7PM

24-HOUR MUSIC-A-THON CHARITY CONCERT
THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER MID-DAY START (ONLINE)

FREE ENTRY
DONATIONS TO A RETIRING COLLECTION WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

Please do save the dates above. Our students gain so much from performing to warm, supportive audiences, and we would be grateful if

you could help us spread the word by sharing news of our concerts with friends, family and your wider communities.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our concerts.

Sanae Honda, Concerts Manager

Safeguarding

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 achieve their 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), **Jane Mitchell** (Director of Boarding), **Paul Hoskins** (Director of Music), **Sally-Ann Whitty** (Learning Support), and **Debbie Shah** (Accompanist). They work with the wider pastoral team, which includes Houseparents and other House staff, the Medical Team (School Nurses **Rosie McManus** 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 a whole host of information for you as parents and guardians. Alongside

specific advice on wellbeing and school life, we have produced some fact sheets to help you understand some of the challenges facing children today, particularly in the online world. We will be adding to these periodically so do check back and have a look. If you would like 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.

With best wishes,



Paul Bambrough
Principal

