

PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

17th October 2025

Dear Parents,

It seems utterly extraordinary that we have arrived at the end of our first half term. They say time passes more quickly the older you get: by this measure I must have aged very significantly in the last six weeks, because they have just flown by. I have been delighted with the beginning of the school year. New students have settled into school really quickly, helped and supported by the warmth of their peers and the expertise of the staff. We have already enjoyed some significant musical highlights with the Wigmore Hall concert, several departmental concerts, multiple masterclasses and much more. Our students were magnificent ambassadors for the school during the recent Open Morning and it was so heartwarming to see their genuine love and passion for the school. There is a lovely feeling of optimism and positivity around the school at the moment which I hope will sustain us through the darker, colder months ahead. If you are the parent of a boarder, can I please draw your attention to the first in this newsletter and ask for your cooperation on what is a very busy night in the local area.

Wishing you all an enjoyable half term break,

Paul

Arrangements for returning boarders on Sunday 2nd November and accessing the site generally

When returning on Sunday 2nd November please can families of boarding students use the rear gate on Bushey Mill Lane to access the school site between 6pm and 8pm rather than the front entrance. This is due to a big fireworks display taking place at the

Metropolitan Club opposite the School's main entrance on Aldenham Road which will make the road very congested.

As a result our front barrier will be kept closed and you will need to use your usual code (3256) to

gain access via the rear gate.

Please can I also remind parents to use the rear gates when dropping off and collecting day students rather than driving through the site and please stick to the speed limit.

Principal's Vlog

A reminder that you can watch the Principal's Vlogs using the link to

YouTube [here](#) and to the school website [here](#) - this week features an

interview with the three newly elected student leaders.

Assessment Week - Beginning 3rd November

Assessment Week will begin once students return from half term. All assessments will be taken in class during students' normal timetabled lessons, so there will be no disruption to the usual school day. Students will complete assessments in their regular classrooms with their usual teachers.

Assessment Week provides an important opportunity for our students to demonstrate what they have learned during the first half of the autumn term. It also allows our teachers to identify areas where students are excelling and where they may benefit from additional support.

We want to reassure both students and parents that these assessments are designed to support learning, not to cause stress. They help us to celebrate students' progress and achievements, identify any gaps in understanding that we can address, plan appropriate support and extension activities, and ensure every student continues to make strong progress.

We encourage students to review their notes and classwork from the first half term, revisit any topics they found challenging, and ensure they get plenty of rest

during the half term break. Students should view Assessment Week as a chance to shine and demonstrate their hard work from the first half of term.

If your child has any concerns about the assessments, please encourage them to speak with their subject teachers, who will be happy to provide guidance and reassurance. We look forward to seeing all students back in school on Monday, 3rd November, ready to demonstrate their learning.

The Purcell School Giving Day

We are excited to share that the School will be hosting our inaugural Giving Day on 11th-12th December. This special day is an opportunity for our community to come together in support of our

students and the School's Bursary Fund. The Giving Day celebrates the spirit of generosity that makes The Purcell School such a vibrant and caring place to study.

At the heart of the day, students will participate in a continuous 24-hour concert. Musicians from all departments will perform in a fundraising concert which will be live streamed, spanning the

whole 24 hours. We are in the early stages of programming the concert to ensure students of appropriate age are performing at the correct times during the 24 hours. People will tune in from all over the world and all time zones to watch and hopefully, they will be inspired to donate generously.

Money raised will directly support the School's Bursary Fund, helping students without the financial means to receive a musical education. In these particularly difficult times, we want to ensure every student has access to the best opportunities possible.

We would love to partner with

businesses, organisations and individuals to make our Giving Day an even greater success. If you, your company or the company where you work, would be interested in being a sponsor of the event, please let us know.

Sponsorship is a meaningful way to invest in our students while also giving recognition to your business or brand.

If you would like more information about sponsorship opportunities and advertising a business, please contact Chris Harbour on c.harbour@purcell-school.org or 01923 331131.

In order to compile and advertise the programme and complex schedule, we are asking all students in the school to spend half term thinking about any music that they would like to perform. They can use this form (link [here](#)) to apply for a place in the 24-hour concert. Please support them with as much help as you can and talk to them about what they are hoping to do.

Once proposals are in during the first week after half term, Paul Hoskins will work out the schedule with colleagues, supported by the Student Music Leads, Lara and Dima.

“ LET'S ALL TALK mental health

We're excited to continue our pastoral partnership this academic year, giving all parents and carers free access to Let's All Talk Mental Health, a resource hub for advice on teen mental health, parenting challenges, and social and emotional wellbeing. Whether you're new to

our school or already familiar with LATMH, we want to ensure you know what's available and that support is there whenever you need it.

With this initiative, you can access over 30 live online sessions throughout the year, covering a wide range of

teen mental health topics, from anxiety and ADHD to friendships, screen time, and more. Each session features the UK's leading Clinical Psychologists, specialists, and advocates, with dedicated anonymous Q&A time for parent questions.

You'll also have unlimited access to an on-demand library of 70+ recorded sessions, available to watch at your convenience.

Let's All Talk Mental Health provides:

- Expert Insight – Learn what to say (and what not to say) when your teen is struggling
- Practical Advice – Tried-and-tested strategies to help at home
- Clear Information – To better understand teen mental health challenges, social and emotional issues
- Guidance on Support – Including how to find the right help when needed.

Coming up over the next four weeks:

Mon 3rd Nov:

Understanding Eating Issues in Teens

Mon 10th Nov: Helping Your Teen Deal with Bullying

Mon 17th Nov: Autism in the Teen Years: What to Expect and How to Help

Mon 24th Nov: Negotiating Teen Boundaries: Parenting Without Power Struggles.

Can't join a session live?

Don't worry, every session is available on demand right after it airs.

And if you have questions for the experts, you can email them in advance to the LATMH team.

Getting started: Even if you've registered before, please register for your new school-year pass

using this link: [Purcell 25/26](#). Once registered, allow a few minutes, then you'll receive an email from Contrast with your access link to the Let's All Talk Mental Health hub (check your junk folder if it doesn't appear in your inbox).

Here's the direct access link to the hub once you've registered: [LATMH Hub](#).

For any assistance accessing the hub, you can reach out to the team at hello@letsalltalkmentalhealth.co.uk.

We truly hope these resources will be helpful for you and your family.