

Newsletter

Music

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Director of Music



Dear Parents



As I reflect upon the hive of activity that is the Abingdon School Music Department, there are the numerous highlights of the previous academic year to draw upon including the wonderful solo competitions, collective music making of ensembles and bands, concerts in both Abingdon and further afield but also the daily delight of witnessing pupils diligently applying themselves to their own personal musical endeavours. Of course, this was all made possible by the sterling work and tenure of Michael Stinton and it is a wonderful privilege and honour to be arriving in Abingdon to take over the baton so to speak!

As new pupils in 1st, 3rd and Lower 6th forms arrive, they can be comforted by the fact that not only I, but two other members of the Music Department team, Mr Popplewell and Mr Morrin, will be learning the ropes too!

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 26 September

Solo Platform 1

CMR - 6pm

Thursday 2 November

Senior Instrumental Solo

Competition

CMR - 6pm

Friday 10 November

Remembrance Concert

Chapel - 6pm

Wednesday 6 December &

Friday 8 December

Christmas Concerts

Amey Theatre - 7pm

Central to the department's aspiration will be enabling all pupils to pursue music with their own individual ambition and endeavour and I firmly believe that the greatest skill that music teaches us is the ability to communicate our thoughts, emotions and, ultimately, personality. It is my hope that the varied palette of musical opportunities remains as we seek to provide a musical diet suitable for all our pupils. As the great philosopher Aristotle once said, 'Music has the power of forming the character, and should therefore be introduced to the education of the young'. Well, I hope it is obvious that it will be introduced, continued and consolidated throughout the forthcoming term and, most importantly, enjoyed by all who embrace it!

Michaelmas is traditionally the busiest of terms and this is especially the case for the Music Department. In addition to the regular Friday performance opportunities, House singing and solo competitions, there are also the Christmas concerts and the Carol services to look forward to. As ever, Music is a pursuit which requires a huge amount of dedication and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents for your continued support of your children's musical endeavours, be it supporting them in practice, the late pick-ups after concerts or even delivering instruments to the department! I do hope that when Christmas arrives, we are all suitably enriched by these musical experiences and wish you every success and happiness for the forthcoming term.