

FROM THE HEAD OF MUSIC  
Friday, 27th May 2011

Dear Parents

Welcome to my half-termly update to events in the Music Department.

### **Dates for the Diary**

#### **Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Mass at Belmont. The Choir is delighted to be singing at 9.30am Mass at Belmont Abbey. It is a great honour and we'd welcome plenty of support from parents and children.

#### **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> June**

Summer Concert. This is the main concert of the term, and parents will be advised nearer the time about the participants. As during the last year we'd like to welcome you to drinks beforehand in the Front Hall. A letter/e-mail will be sent out nearer the time. There will be an informal concert if we can find the time in a very stretched school calendar.

#### **Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> June**

##### **The Stonemason's Tale**

The senior members of the choir will be contributing to the procession in this Hereford pageant, singing Salve Regina and Elgar's Ave Verum. It is a whole day event, and the culmination of many linked activities throughout the year.

#### **Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> July and Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

##### **Wind Workshop with Andrew Knights**

We are delighted to be able to welcome the oboist Andrew Knights, formerly principal oboe of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Bournemouth Sinfonietta. A full biography on is on the school website. He will visit the Pre-Prep on the afternoon of Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, before giving an informal concert at 6.45pm that evening in the Front Hall, accompanied by Adrian Williams (not to be missed – bring friends and relations). Then on Saturday morning, he will give a whole school workshop with a variety of pieces on oboe and cor anglais, saxophones, bagpipes, and bombard with percussion participation. It will be great fun. Do come along. Times to be posted on website.

## Music Exams

In such a short term, we have a great deal to do to prepare for the music exams. As I write we haven't yet been given a date, but we've asked for the last week of term. Our music gap Hugh Bortolotti has completed various music practice schedules which are now up on the website for parents to view and support. We are serious about asking children to honour these time commitments (the exam children are supervised), and they are beginning to realise how important it is and turn up without being asked to do so. The Daily Telegraph has recently reported research that, 'Parents who make their children practise the piano may be helping them with more than just musical skills ... A study of older people has shown that those who learned a musical instrument performed better in intelligence tests than those who had never learned one... Even those who had only studied for a few years appeared to have derived a cognitive advantage from it'.

So our cognitively advantaged pupils taking exams this term are as follows:

Katie Archer	Violin	Grade 2
Jack Bell	Violin	Grade 2
Danielle Browne	Piano	Grade 1
Laura Browne	Trumpet	Grade 1
Geni Bunce	Clarinet	Grade 1
Lydia Clifton	Clarinet and Piano	Grade 1/PT
Tiggy C-Taylor	Clarinet	Grade 1
Jessica Critchard	Flute	Grade 1
Abigail Cunningham	Clarinet and Singing	Grade 4
Holly Dales	Piano	Grade 1
Louis De Rohan	Piano	Prep Test
Isla Gordon	Piano and Singing	Grade 4
Tom Harvey	Singing	Grade 3
Felicity Hayward	Piano	Prep Test
Fergus Head	Singing	Grade 3
Byron Hodgetts	Piano	Grade 2
Phoebe Jackson	Piano	Grade 3
Megan Kupa	Piano	Grade 1
Lucy Nelson	Flute	Grade 1
Octavia Riggall	Piano	Grade 1
Oliver Singleton	Trumpet	Grade 4
Anna Skyrme	Piano and Singing	PT and Grade 3
Daniel Smith	Violin	Grade 2
Gwen Thomas	Singing	Grade 3
Isolde Watt	Piano	Grade 1
Natalya Wolloshin	Violin	Grade 2

We also have a Grade 3 Theory exam on 18<sup>th</sup> June: Isla Gordon, Abigail Cunningham, Gwen Thomas, Isolde Watt, Caroline Lewis, Will Hayward and Ali Hawkins.

**Music Lessons**

It might be worth pointing out how the music lesson schedule works at the moment. The music teachers give 30 lessons a year minimum to the children, and invoice 10 per term. Usually, this works out at 12 in the autumn, 9 in the spring and 9 in the summer – or variants thereof depending on the length of each term. Missed lessons due to school trips, lost Mondays through Bank Holidays etc are always made up. As far as the music lesson schedules go, I am thinking of organising them differently starting with the autumn term, and planning half terms in advance. My rolling programmes have worked better this term, but I think the timetables would work better still if parents and children had their schedules before the term started. This is work in progress and still needs to be discussed before it is confirmed.

**Haydn Mass**

An enormous thank you to all parents who supported their children in Haydn's 'Nelson' Mass at Hereford Cathedral last term. A CD of the performance has been made, and it's really terrifically good! If anyone would like a copy, please could they sign a list on the Music Notices board, and I will make an order after half term. The cost is £10.

Many thanks indeed for all your support.

All good wishes

Annie Bull  
Head of Music