



From: The Director of Music, Michael Stinton, MA (Oxon), LRAM, ARCM.

9 September 2016

Music Department Newsletter – Michaelmas Term 2016

I extend a warm welcome from the Music Department, both to existing and new parents alike. We aim to provide a wide range of musical opportunities here for pupils of all standards and stages of their development and we are keen to share with parents the celebration of the wide musical range and the extraordinary talents of Abingdon pupils.

We offer concerts (solo, ensemble, choral and instrumented), masterclasses, concert trips – as well as all the work required for examinations, both academic and instrumental – and we are assisted in that task by a lively and resourceful group of parents in our Music Society, a body which raises funds for our concerts, our tours, new instruments and for masterclasses. All parents, of musicians will be invited to join for a small annual subscription – more about that later in the term.

Parents can get involved in other ways, too. Our Joint Choral Society with St. Helen's School involves pupils, parents and teachers in a choral concert and rehearsal process in the Michaelmas Term. This time Helen Coad will be directing a concert on Sunday 20 November of Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Vaughan William's *Five Mystical Songs*. Pupils rehearse on Tuesdays after school, whilst parents meet on Tuesday evenings (7.00 – 9.00pm). We hope that many parents will wish to sing - please just come along to St Helen's School on a Tuesday evening (starting on 4 October). We don't audition and there are plenty of vocal scores available.

There are many events on offer – please consult the **Music Calendar** for more detailed information. There are two Christmas Concerts offering the same programme this year (7 and 9 December) and this is particularly popular as it includes a broad range of our music – from senior and junior pupils (including a First Year Choir) in both jazz and classical styles. We expect tickets to sell fast.

I look forward to seeing you at our concerts this term and close with a summary of dates for you to pencil into your diaries.

With all good wishes,

5 October	5.45/6pm	Music Society AGM + Music Scholars & Soloists Concert 1
4 November	6pm	Music Scholars & Soloists Concert 2
9 November	5.30pm	Tewkesbury Abbey – Choral Evensong
10 November	6pm	Senior Instrumental Solo Competition
17 November	5-7.30pm	Music Society, Richard Burkhard – Singing Masterclass and Recital

20 November	7pm	Joint Choral Society Concert – Vivaldi: <i>Gloria</i> , Vaughan Williams: <i>Five Mystical Songs</i>
25 November	7pm	Music Society Social Evening: Mozart Lecture with orchestra and curry
30 November	6pm	Music Society, Levon Chilingirian – Strings Masterclass
7&9 December	7pm	Christmas Concert, Amey Theatre
13 December	7.30pm	Thames Vale Youth Orchestra Concert (Radley College), Mendelssohn: <i>Hebrides</i> , Brahms: <i>Double</i> , Beethoven: <i>Eroica</i>



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