



# ABINGDON

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

15 September 2017

## Music Department Newsletter – Michaelmas Term 2017

A warm welcome from the Music Department, to all our parents and friends. We strive 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 instrumental), masterclasses, concert trips – as well as all the work required for examinations, both academic and practical – 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 Jason Preece will be directing a concert on Sunday 19 November of Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and Rutter's *Gloria*. Pupils rehearse on Tuesdays after school, whilst parents meet on Wednesday evenings (7.00 – 8.30pm). We hope that many parents will wish to sing - please just come along to the Charles Maude Room at Abingdon School (starting tonight). 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 (6 and 7 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.

Wednesday 4 October	5.45/6pm	Music Society AGM + Solo Concert Platform 1
Wednesday 8 November	5.30pm	Tewkesbury Abbey – Choral Evensong
Thursday 9 November	6pm	Solo Concert Platform 2
Wednesday 15 November	6pm	Senior Instrumental Solo Competition
Sunday 19 November	7pm	Joint Choral Society Concert – Mozart: <i>Coronation Mass</i> , Rutter: <i>Gloria</i>
Wednesday 22 November	5-7.30pm	Music Society Woodwind Masterclass with Paul Harris
Wednesday 6 &		
Thursday 7 December	7pm	Christmas Concerts, Amey Theatre
Tuesday 12 December	7.30pm	Thames Vale Youth Orchestra Concert (Radley College), Verdi: <i>Force of Destiny</i> , Tchaikovsky: <i>Nutcracker Suite</i> , Kalinnikov: <i>Symphony no.1 in G minor</i>

With all good wishes

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