

The Hall

MUSIC SCHOOL



INFORMATION BOOKLET

September 2015

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Music at The Hall | 4 |
| 2. The Importance of Learning an Instrument | 4 |
| 2.1 Music Stimulates Brain Development..... | 4 |
| 2.2 Music is a Discipline..... | 5 |
| 3. Junior School Music | 5 |
| 4. Timetabling | 7 |
| 5. Instrumental Lessons during Academic Lessons | 7 |
| 6. Lessons at Home | 7 |
| 7. Missed instrumental lessons | 8 |
| 8. Instruments | 8 |
| 9. Lessons, contracts, practice, and contact with your teacher | 8 |
| 10. Class Music Curriculum | 9 |
| 11. Music Scholars | 10 |
| 12. Music Examination Support | 10 |
| 13. Orchestras and Ensembles | 10 |
| 14. String Quartets | 12 |
| 15. Chapel Choir | 13 |
| 16. Concerts, Competitions, Festivals and other Musical Events | 14 |
| 16.1 Pupil's Informal Concerts (PIC)..... | 14 |
| 16.2 Senior and Middle School Concerts | 14 |
| 16.3 Individual Music Competition..... | 14 |
| 16.4 Chamber Music Festival..... | 14 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 16.5 Class Concerts..... | 15 |
| 16.6 Music Scholar's Informal Concert..... | 15 |
| 16.7 Choral Concert..... | 15 |
| 16.8 Jazz Concert..... | 15 |
| 16.9 Carol Service..... | 16 |
| 16.10 Music Examinations..... | 16 |
| 16.11 Band Night..... | 16 |
| 16.12 Gala Concert..... | 16 |
| 17. Music Technology..... | 17 |
| 18. Music Tours..... | 17 |
| 19. Trips..... | 18 |
| 20. Instrument storage and insurance..... | 18 |
| 21. Weekly Newsletter..... | 18 |
| 22. Appointments with the Director of Music..... | 19 |





1. Music at The Hall

There is a vibrant and thriving musical environment and community at the Hall School, which is extremely well supported by boys, parents, staff and school governors. The atmosphere of inclusive, purposeful music making in the school is greatly respected and the majority of boys choose to become involved in the wider musical life of the school as well as in weekly class lessons. Instrumental and vocal tuition is first class, delivered by visiting professionals, and there is a comprehensive programme of ensembles that supports curriculum work. Many of the high-profile events during the school year have music at their core, and there are correspondingly impressive standards achieved and expected at all levels.

2. The Importance of Learning an Instrument

One of the principles of learning and teaching at The Hall School is to provide a broad curriculum that will develop and nurture the whole child. The main objective for this is to steer away from a focus on narrowly defined academic achievement to one that encompasses a broader definition of accountability. The Music School plays a vital part in fulfilling this philosophy. The importance and benefits of learning an instrument and performing with other musicians is a very topical issue and enjoys a great deal of attention in research and publications. Two fascinating dimensions of this topic are included to reflect upon:

2.1 Music Stimulates Brain Development

In her book *The Power of Music: Pioneering Discoveries in the New Science of Song*, author Elena Mannes elaborates on the scientific evidence that music is the only activity that stimulates the whole brain. According to Prof Gottfried Schlaug, Director of the Music and Neuroimaging Laboratory in Boston MA, the most important brain benefit of musical training is the ability to integrate sensory information through hearing, touch

and sight. At The Hall Music School, boys have individual lessons. There is no pressure to compete with other boys during lessons. A 30-minute (Junior School) or 35-minute lesson (Middle and Senior School) tailor-made and planned by a highly skilled instrumental teacher can only be of enormous benefit for any pupil.

2.2 Music is a Discipline

By learning an instrument, a child learns to set aside a specific time to practise and to follow very detailed instructions. This approach is excellent preparation for the fundamentals involved in building mathematical and other academic skills. Individual lessons occur only once a week, which forces children to think back and refer to their notebooks and to follow written guidelines and instructions. This will teach them to use their time responsibly and also to take care of and look after their own instruments.

3. Junior School Music

Boys in the Junior School (Years 1-3) will receive two class music lessons of 30 minutes each per week, while boys in Reception will have three lessons of 20 minutes each. Highlights from the class music curriculum include the following:

Reception: Throughout the early foundation years, various musical terms like beat, tempo, metre, rhythm, pitch, timbre and dynamics are introduced and explored. Boys learn to treat percussion instruments with respect and also begin to follow non-verbal directions to start and finish a piece of music or a song. Boys learn around 60 songs during the academic year and lesson content is based on particular songs.

Year 1: In Year 1, emphasis is placed on the importance of listening within music, with specific focus on contrasts. Note values are also introduced, followed by rhythm building. This is the first introduction to very basic composing skills.

Year 2: In Year 2, the concept of pitch is introduced. This leads to more challenging rhythm games and the development of aural awareness. Rhythm work becomes more complicated and boys start to play percussion instruments from notation scores.

Year 3: Concepts studied in Year 3 include note values, beats, rhythm building, canon, metre, accents, improvisation and basic composition. Year 3 boys play a vital role in school concerts and the annual Carol Service, and a significant amount of lesson time is dedicated to preparation for these events.

From Year 1 onwards, boys will have the opportunity to learn an instrument at school. They can choose between piano, violin, viola, cello and double bass. Boys are limited to only one lesson per week to restrict absence from more than one academic lesson per week. We are currently looking at ways to include woodwind and brass instruments. Please contact the Director of Music if you need more information. Lessons are normally on the same day of the week, but the lesson times will be rotated so that boys do not miss the same academic lesson every week.

From Year 3 onwards, boys will also have to chance to choose from a broader variety of instruments including brass (first year of brass tuition will be on the trumpet), flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and recorder. Although the choice has expanded, boys will still only be able to learn one instrument during the normal school day.

Every year group will have an instrumental concert once per term. Boys will gain experience in how to introduce themselves, play their piece and acknowledge applause afterwards. This is a very friendly and supporting forum to introduce boys to the world of performing. Parents are warmly invited and encouraged to attend these concerts.

All string players in Years 2 and 3 (minimal standard applies) are invited to join the Junior School String Orchestra. Rehearsals take place during break time after lunch on a Tuesday afternoon. The orchestra regularly performs during important school events and will also be recorded in the new music technology studio in the senior school.

Apart from class assemblies and year group productions, the music department is also responsible for coordinating an annual Christmas Carol Service where all the boys in the Junior School participate. Towards the end of the academic year, there are also concerts by the two reception classes, as well as the 'farewell concert' for the Year 3 boys.

4. Timetabling

Over any given week, hundreds of instrumental lessons are delivered by the 26 peripatetic staff of The Hall Music School. The vast majority of these lessons take place during the school day, while a small number are held before and after school. Therefore it is inevitable that a boy will miss an academic lesson for an instrumental one. If a boy learns only one instrument, this lesson will rotate as widely as possible throughout the academic timetable.

This rotation, however, is governed by the boy's availability and his teacher's hours. If a boy learns two instruments, we will aim to arrange one of these outside of academic lesson time. We treat each academic subject as equal and as such, parents and boys cannot request to miss one particular subject in preference over another.

5. Instrumental Lessons during Academic Lessons

This is a great concern for many parents – especially if music lessons are scheduled to take place during subject lessons. Leading researcher, Dr Frances Rauscher of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, has been actively involved in research on music and cognitive performance. In an article published in 2006, she explains that ‘young children provided with instrumental instruction score higher on tasks measuring spatial-temporal cognition, hand-eye coordination and arithmetic’. She further says that the necessary concept for understanding fractions, decimals and percentages is highly relevant in understanding rhythm.

Taking this research into consideration, absence from one academic lesson per week does not seem to override the very great benefit of having a single one-to-one instrumental lesson.

6. Lessons at Home

We appreciate that some families prefer their sons to pursue their musical interest out of school. We make every effort to ensure that boys who learn an instrument out of school have the same opportunities for performing as those who learn in school. We would ask you to inform us if your son is having lessons out of school so that we may involve him in appropriate school activities.

7. Missed instrumental lessons

If a boy misses an instrumental lesson due to an official school activity (published in the termly calendar), the lesson will be made up or refunded. Instrumental teachers will also make up lessons if they were absent due to illness or other professional commitments. Lessons will not be made up if boys are ill or have missed lessons due to external appointments or activities.

8. Instruments

When entering the Middle School, a much wider choice of instruments is available to choose from:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Flute | Recorder | Oboe |
| Clarinet | Saxophone | Bassoon |
| Trumpet | French Horn | Trombone |
| Tuba | Drums and Percussion | Violin |
| Viola | Cello | Double Bass |
| Acoustic Guitar | Electric Guitar | Piano |
| Singing | Bass Guitar | |



9. Lessons, contracts, practice, and contact with your teacher

Boys are given 30 lessons over the course of the academic year. They are billed in three instalments of 10 lessons, though more than 10 are usually given in the first term, and fewer in the second and third. Notice to stop lessons must be given in writing or by email to the Director of Music by half-term to cease lessons at the end of that term, otherwise a full term's fees are payable in lieu. A contract is issued between the instrumental teacher and the parent at the start

of each academic year, and each instrumental lesson invoice details the date by which notice must be given in the event of wishing to discontinue lessons.

You can contact your son's teacher via their school email address which is `initial.surname@hallschool.co.uk` or by any other means they give you. There are also parent meetings in the Autumn and Spring Term, as well as an instrumental report in the Summer Term to update you on your son's progress.

10. Class Music Curriculum

A highly competitive and specialised instrumental training programme covers an enormous range of musical ability and standards. The class music curriculum has been planned to provide for and enhance the learning experience of all our boys, regardless of the standard of their musical achievement. Highlights from the curriculum include the following:

Year 4: The elements of music and basic music theory, instruments of the orchestra and an all-inclusive study on musicals and musical theatre. This is enriched with numerous practical lessons and singing.

Year 5: The four major periods in the history of western classical music (Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern), enriched with practical keyboard investigation and singing. In addition to the exploration of the life and works of several composers, boys will also discover dimensions of the art, architecture and inventions during these eras.

Year 6: World Music, including the culture, customs and music making of countries from at least five continents. This will be followed by a study of the history of Jazz & Blues, from its humble beginnings with the Ragtime of Scott Joplin, through the Big Band and Swing Eras, up to the Be-Bop and influences in Blues and Rock and Roll. This will lead to a practical keyboard module, followed by a unit on some of London's most desired and diverse music venues.

Year 7: An overview of the development of the Rock style over the last 50 years, from Chuck Berry through to the stars of Rock music today. A full term will be dedicated to an introduction to musical composition, followed by a module on theatre craft and theatre technology. Class time will also be dedicated to prepare for the annual Band Night held towards the end of the summer term.

Year 8: The majority of time in Year 8 will be spent on music technology. Boys will have the opportunity to benefit from the knowledge of a highly experienced music technologist. Weekly lessons will take place in our state of the art music technology studio where boys will be able to learn about the art of recording. By the end of Year 8, boys will also have an extensive knowledge of the use of music software to prepare them for the rigours of music at GCSE and A-level. Boys will also learn about the fascinating world of film music and will compose a soundtrack for their own script. Towards the end of the academic year, class time will also be devoted to preparations for the annual Band Night.

11. Music Scholars

The Hall Music School has an excellent and proud reputation in nurturing potential music scholars. During the past five years, over 30 pupils have won music scholarships, exhibitions and other music awards to some of London's top day and boarding schools. Potential scholars receive guidance and coaching from numerous music staff and will be able to participate in a number of opportunities to prepare them for the highly competitive auditions held towards the beginning of Spring Term. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the Director of Music to discuss their son's possibilities for future music scholarships.

12. Music Examination Support

A designated staff member will be available during break times to rehearse the piano part with boys playing orchestral instruments. This plays a vital role in the preparation process for examinations and concerts. Boys will be advised and signed up by their instrumental teachers for a maximum of two slots (5 minutes each) per morning break time.

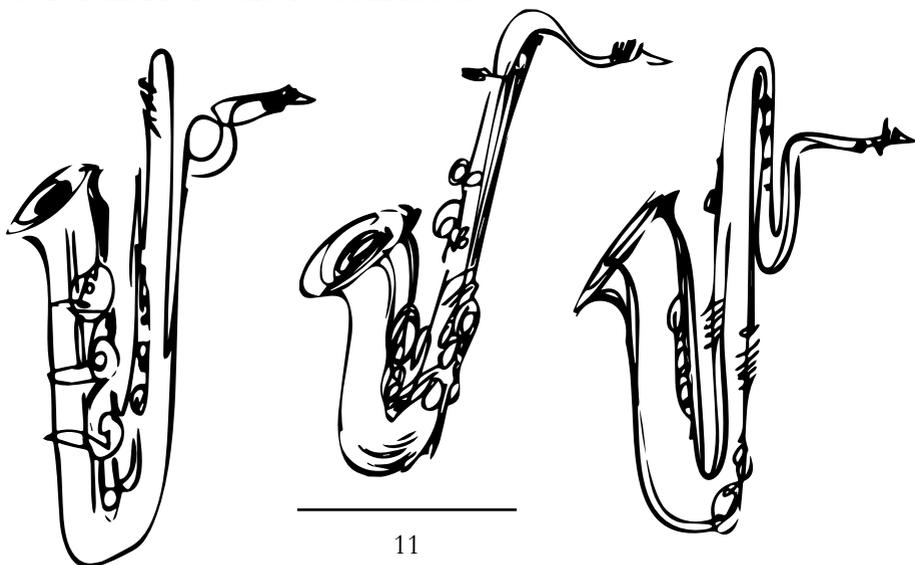
There will also be two break times per week (for both the middle and senior school) earmarked for aural training. Boys will be automatically signed up to attend these classes once they have been entered for external music examinations.

13. Orchestras and Ensembles

Apart from the 15 string quartets (see paragraph 14), there is a range of orchestras and ensembles to join in the Middle and Senior school:

| Middle School | Senior School |
|---|--|
| Training Band | Concert Band |
| Middle School String Orchestra | String Orchestra |
| Saxophone Group | Saxophone Group |
| Single Reed Group | Clarinet Group |
| Double Reed Group (oboe and bassoon) | Double Reed Group (oboe and bassoon) |
| Percussion Group | Percussion Groups (one per year group) |
| Brass Group | Brass Group |
| Choir | Brass Quartet |
| Electric Guitar Group (Year 5) | Flute Group |
| | Electric Guitar Groups (one per year group) |
| | Jazz Bands (one per year group) |

Boys do not have to learn an instrument through school to be part of any orchestra or group. Boys learning with external teachers should contact the Director of the Music School to be included.



14. String Quartets

At The Hall we are lucky enough to have a very large string department that gives the boys excellent learning and performing opportunities as soloists and ensemble players throughout the academic year. The boys often begin individual instrumental lessons in Year 1 and 2 (on violin, viola, cello and double bass), progressing quickly to termly solo concerts and participation in Year 2 and 3 string groups in the Junior School. By the time they reach the Middle School, they automatically become part of the Middle School String Orchestra and then move up to Senior Strings in Year 6.

The string department at The Hall has long recognised the importance of chamber music as part of the boys' musical training, alongside their solo and orchestral work. Chamber music, where the boys play in small groups without a conductor, helps develop an individual's playing but within the context of a small team in which members are very reliant on each other to achieve a cohesive, polished performance. It requires the confidence, sound and preparation of a solo performance, but places this within a social musical context. It is the perfect combination of soloist and team player.

We currently have 17 string chamber groups ranging from Grade 2 up to Grade 8. The reason we start at Grade 2 level is to enable the boys to develop technical and musical skills that allow them to feel confident about their individual playing so they can listen and respond to the other players around them. Generally, the boys will be assigned to a group in Year 4 or 5 depending on their level of attainment, but they may start later if they take up an instrument at a later stage.



15. Chapel Choir

The Chapel Choir is an auditioned group of boys selected from Years 4 to 8. They rehearse twice a week and have numerous internal and external commitments each term.

As well as leading the worship in school at the Start and End of Year Services and the Carol Service, they sing choral evensong in major churches and cathedrals in and around London and perform a major work annually.

When the Chapel Choir sings externally, it is supported by professional altos, tenors and basses, enabling the boys to perform a wide range of 'cathedral'-style repertoire. Over the last few years, the Choir has sung choral evensong in St Paul's Cathedral, St George's Chapel, Windsor, St Alban's Cathedral, Southwark Cathedral and most recently at Eton College Chapel.

Once a year, the Choir has the chance to perform a much bigger piece, enjoying the chance to work alongside leading soloists and professional instrumentalists in a variety of venues including, most recently, St John's, Smith Square. Over the last few years, it has performed Haydn's 'Maria Theresa' Mass, Handel's Messiah, Dvorak's Mass in D, Schubert's Mass in G and Requiems by Rutter, Mozart and Duruffé to great critical acclaim.

In October 2013, the Chapel Choir and school orchestra undertook a nine-day tour of South Africa, collaborating with children from schools in Franschhoek and Arcadia as well as performing in their own right at concerts and services in Cape Town and Pretoria. It is envisaged that a tour will happen every three years, the next being a return visit to South Africa in October 2016.

It is important to recognise the commitment and stamina required to be a Chapel Chorister. With only two short rehearsals each week to prepare for three or four engagements each term, the boys, by necessity, have to work extremely hard.

By and large, the boys rise to this challenge and benefit greatly from it, notably in their sight-reading ability and in their general musicianship. As a consequence, this means the boys are introduced to the varied and complex repertoire which is an integral part of our heritage.

16. Concerts, Competitions, Festivals and other Musical Events

The Music School is responsible for putting together a varied programme of concerts and musical events throughout the academic year:

16.1 Pupil's Informal Concerts (PIC)

Four informal concerts are presented each term and take place on Wednesday afternoons at 4.15pm. Boys will be advised by their teachers when they are ready to perform. A PIC slip should be completed and submitted to the music office by 4pm on the day before the concert. Slips are available from the notice board outside the music office or can be downloaded from the Music School's website. It is expected that senior school boys play at a minimum of two concerts per year, and middle school boys at a minimum of one concert per year. Boys entered for music examinations will be playing at more concerts as part of their preparations.

16.2 Senior and Middle School Concerts (Autumn and Spring Term respectively)

These concerts are primarily for orchestras and music groups in the specific divisions of the school. Teachers responsible for the groups will sign them up and sufficient notice to parents will be given through the Music School's weekly newsletter.

16.3 Individual Music Competition

The annual Individual Music Competition takes place towards the end of the Autumn Term. All boys are encouraged to participate and earn points for their houses. Heats take place during the class music lessons, after which the finalists are announced. The final round takes place after school hours and an external adjudicator is invited to decide on the prize winners.

16.4 Chamber Music Festival

The Chamber Music Festival takes place at the beginning of the Spring Term. All the string ensembles as well as the senior school Brass Quartet participate in this prestigious event where they have master classes with an external chamber music specialist. The Festival is concluded with a concert, celebrating this extraordinary tradition at the school. All boys receive certificates of participation.

16.5 Class Concerts

All boys in Years 4, 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to play a piece in the termly class concerts. This is a very informal and friendly environment for boys to try out their exam pieces or just play and participate for their own pleasure. Parents are invited and encouraged to come along to these events that normally take place during the penultimate week of term. More information will be given through the Music School's weekly newsletter.

16.6 Music Scholar's Informal Concert

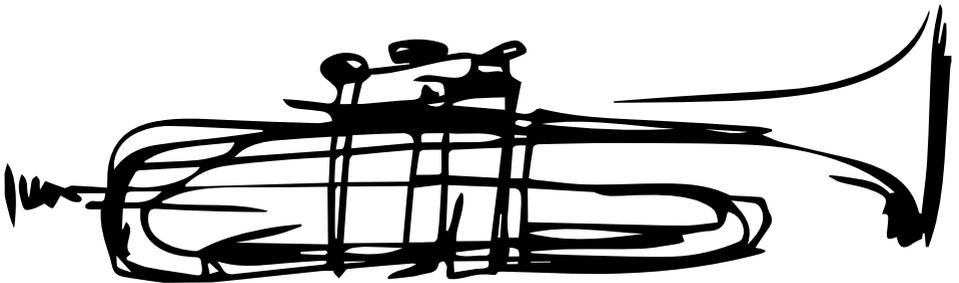
This concert is held in the first part of the Spring Term and is the final chance for prospective music scholars to perform their pieces before their scholarship auditions towards the end of January. Boys will also receive feedback and final advice from the music staff.

16.7 Choral Concert

The Chapel Choir joins with professional singers and musicians to put together this fine concert. To expand the singing tradition at the school, more boys will be involved in future concerts. More detail will be given through the Music School's weekly newsletter.

16.8 Jazz Concert

In the Spring Term, parents, staff and pupils come happily together as an audience for the annual Jazz Concert. All the Jazz bands as well as some of the percussion groups perform together with the dedicated Jazz staff. This is a concert not to be missed!



16.9 Carol Service

The Carol Service is one of the Chapel Choir's highlights every year. Joined by professional singers, the Chapel Choir leads the congregation in a service of Lessons and Carols during the School's annual carol service in St Mary's, Primrose Hill. This is a very popular event attended by the Middle and Senior School with limited seating, so come early to avoid disappointment.

16.10 Music Examinations

External Music Examinations through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (piano, voice and orchestral instruments), Trinity and Guildhall (drum kit) and the Registry of Guitar Teachers (rock guitar) are organised throughout the year. Instrumental teachers normally enter boys for these examinations (with parental consent), but parents are welcome to contact the Director of the Music School if they would like to enter their son if he is taught by an external teacher. Closing dates for entries will be communicated in the Music School's weekly newsletter.

16.11 Band Night

For the past five years, the Parent's Association and Music School have joined forces to put together an evening of fun and experiments! The Middle School Hall is transformed into a cosy cabaret/jazz club and the audience is treated to canapés and wine while being entertained by the Jazz bands, rock guitar and percussion groups and newly formed boys' bands. Boys in Year 7 and 8 will have time during the last part of the Summer Term's class music lessons to form and rehearse bands. Bands that wish to perform at Band Night will have to be auditioned and will be allocated a mentor to refine their performances – look out X factor...

16.12 Gala Concert

This is one of the Music School's new initiatives and will take place in a prestigious venue towards the end of first half of the Summer Term. The main objective of this concert is to celebrate and showcase the musical talent across all three schools at The Hall. A variety of solos, music groups, string ensembles and orchestras will be selected to participate in what we expect will become the highlight in the school's music calendar.

17. Music Technology

Music technology is becoming ever more important for anyone who plays an instrument. On top of mastering an instrument, knowledge of music software and hardware are becoming increasingly important. Not that long ago, a recording studio was run by specialists wearing white laboratory coats trying to make all the analogue equipment and reel-to-reel tape machines work. With the advent of digital equipment, music technology is now much more accessible to everyone, and the white lab coats are optional!

The Hall School Studio is shaped specifically to the school's needs. We can record ensembles or soloists, teach digitally programmed music, record speeches, presentations and plays, create multi-media for the School's website, produce CDs and DVDs of school performances, edit location recordings from any concert venue and produce interactive accompaniments for music lessons. All of these are recorded, mixed and edited in a controlled, professional-standard environment.

There are a great number of boys who play instruments and take part in ensembles. The studio also means all these boys could have a recording of their performances and can take advantage of the interactive benefits. However, a studio also brings in other pupils who perhaps do not play an instrument but have an interest in computers and technology. This enables collaboration between differently talented boys, thus expanding all their areas of expertise.

The studio is located in the heart of the Music Department. There is a custom-designed, acoustically treated control room and two separate performance spaces. All spaces are linked and performances are captured using the school's bespoke microphone collection, class A microphone amps and the very latest digital technology. The teaching of editing and mixing using both software and classic hardware are also a feature of the school's new state-of-the-art music technology suite.

18. Music Tours

An international music tour is organised for boys in the Senior School and will be held once every three years. The inaugural tour took place in South Africa in October 2013 and a subsequent tour is planned for October 2016. As part of the tours, boys are expected to raise money that will be donated to a noteworthy music education cause in South Africa. In October 2013, an amount of £14 000 was raised and donated to various music education programmes organised by the University of South Africa. Following a fundraising initiative, leading to the

acquisition of a full set of marimbas, the aim for the next tour in 2016 is to build a dedicated music classroom for a school in Pretoria which does not have the resources to do so. The itinerary includes various concerts and performances, visits to schools, interaction with local musicians, learning of new musical skills (including African drumming), safaris and visits to important landmarks and places of historical interest.

19. Trips

As part of the class music curriculum, every year group will have one day trip to enhance their learning experience. Trips form part of the curriculum and will be subsidised by the School. In Year 4, the trip will be enriching the boys' module on musicals, while the study of the history of western music in Year 5 will be enhanced by a museum visit with direct relevance to one of the topics studied. In Year 6, the trip will revolve around world music, while the Year 7's will focus on the technical side of performing arts, or theatre craft. In Year 8, the focus will be on music technology.

20. Instrument storage and insurance

Boys may store their instruments in the Music Department storage areas during the day, but they are encouraged to take them home when they are not needed, in order to practise. The doors into the music school may be unlocked by using the code between 7.30 and 9.30am and 3.30 and 5pm, but are locked at other times for security reasons.

Parents are required to make sure their son's instrument is fully insured on their own household policy, which should include provision for when their instrument is not at home. The School cannot be held liable for loss or damage to instruments whilst on School premises.

21. Weekly Newsletter

Another new initiative will be the publication of a weekly newsletter to emphasise certain events, rehearsals and everything else we would like you to know. The letter will be distributed electronically on Fridays and a copy will also be published on Moodle, together with the weekly timetable.

22. Appointments with the Director of Music

Parents are encouraged to make appointments to see the Director of Music to discuss their son's progress or any other music-related issue.

WHY TEACH MUSIC?

Music is a science

It is exact, specific; and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

Music is mathematical

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

Music is a foreign language

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English - but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

Music is history

Music usually reflects the environments and times of its creation, often even the country and/or racial feeling.

Music is a physical education

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheek, and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

Music is all these things, but most of all music is art

It allows a human being to take all these dry technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing that science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion.

