



25th November 2021

**Re: The Festival of Christmas Concert
Wednesday 15th December 2021
Urmston Grammar School (Main Hall)**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to be hosting a live Christmas concert this year on Wednesday 15th December. There will be 2 performances of the concert, a matinee at 4.30pm and an evening concert at 7pm in the Main Hall. The concert is expected to last approximately 1 hour. I apologise that the date originally reserved on the school calendar was Tuesday 14th December, but it has now been pushed back one day due to logistical issues.

Students involved in the concert are those who participate in; Junior Choir, School Band; Senior Choir; Staff and Sixth Form Choir; Mr Burton's Woodwind ensemble and soloists by invitation. All parents, students and friends of the school are welcome to purchase tickets for either concert. These are available on Parent Pay for £3 per person. The monies raised from the concerts will be used to purchase musical equipment and to support future performances and productions from the music and drama departments.

If your child is involved in the Festival of Christmas this year, please complete the brief online form by following [this link](#). This will confirm their attendance and parental permissions.

Please note the following information regarding Covid-19 safety precautions and some administrative arrangements.

Covid-19 Safety Precautions

- The concert is taking place in school and not at St. Clements Church, where it has been held in recent years. The school hall is fitted with specialised ventilators which purify the air, for added safety for performers and the audience;
- Audience members are respectfully asked to wear masks during the performance, unless medically exempt;
- There will be no congregational Carols this year to limit any transmission risks from singing;
- All performers will be asked to take a LFT on the morning of the 15th;
- All audience members are respectfully asked to take a LFT test, if possible, before visiting the school.

General Arrangements

- It is expected that all students involved attend both concerts and only in exceptional circumstances miss one of the performances, with permission from Ms Langham.
- All students involved in the concert will rehearse during the day of the 15th December;
- In previous years, students brought 'Festive Treats' to raise money for the music and drama departments. This year we will not be requesting any donation, given it is a ticketed event.
- Students bringing instruments into school are reminded to please make sure that they are labelled and to remember their ensemble music where applicable;
- The school doors will open 30 minutes before the concerts begin, at 4pm and 6.30pm respectively;
- There will be no paper tickets, and names will be checked against a list generated by Parent Pay ticket purchases;
- We ask that if parents and friends are able to attend the 4.30pm performance, that they choose this option, to allow for the predicted majority who can only attend in the evening, to be able to come;
- Tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis and there is no limit to the number purchased per UGS student;
- Please contact Ms Langham (address below) directly if you require a space for wheelchair access in the main hall;
- All parents/carers must please fill in the form (link above) to confirm their child's attendance and permissions regarding the tea-time slot in between the two concerts. We encourage that students remain in school for this period and therefore bring a packed tea. They will only be allowed to leave school with parental permission, via the form above;
- Students will be required to wear school uniform for this event.

We are really looking forward to providing students with the opportunity to perform in a live scenario after such a long time of restrictions. It is so important for their musicianship and school-experience that we facilitate live music-making. We are confident with the safety measures in place but please do contact me directly if you have any further questions.

Yours Faithfully,

Ms J Langham

Head of Music

jangham@urmstongrammar.org.uk

Link for the parent form: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZVCspjJTJN>