

Urmston Grammar School



Newton Road
Urmston
Manchester
M41 5UG
email: office@urmstongrammar.org.uk
website: urmstongrammar.org.uk
Tel: 0161 748 2875
VAT Registration Number: 120 1656 61

8th July 2025

RE: Performing Arts Faculty

Dear Parent, Carers and Pupils,

We can hardly believe we have a little over a week of the year remaining, and hope you are looking forward to your summer plans that allow time to slow down for a little while! We have been delighted with the continued growth of the Performing Arts departments at Urmston Grammar which will culminate in a wonderful celebration with our second production this year, 'SHOWTIME!'. Tickets are selling quickly but still available and we would love to see as many of you as possible at one of this week's performances; <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/urmston-grammar-school>.

Elsewhere, we were delighted with the performances of our Junior Choir pupils who represented our school magnificently in the Spring at the Music for Youth Festival in Rochdale, followed by another set of outstanding results for our LAMDA students. The number of students now participating in the Performing Arts is growing rapidly, it is wonderful to see them work with so much commitment, we look forward to next year when there is more to come!

As this year draws to a close, we have some changes to our faculty. We will be saying 'farewell' to Ms. Langham after ten years as Head of Music. I, Mrs Helen Glen, will lead our new Performing Arts Faculty and continue as Head of Drama with Mr Alistair Harrison as Lead Teacher of Music and a new Theatre Technician, Ms. Ceri Graves. We have begun to make exciting plans for the new academic year and wanted to take this opportunity to share some aspects with you.

Extra-Curricular Schedule 2025-2026

In addition to our varied curricula, we will continue to offer a packed extra-curricular schedule. Regardless of experience, we would be delighted to encourage your child to participate in our activities in which life-long friendships are often made whilst supporting your child's development more broadly. Our timetable will be shared with you in the new school year.

Productions 2025-26

Following on from this year's successful productions of, 'DNA', we are excited to announce our 2026 production; **'Little Shop of Horrors!'**

'A deviously delicious Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash musical, Little Shop Of Horrors has devoured the hearts of theatre goers for over 30 years. Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (Disney's The Little Mermaid, Beauty And The Beast, and Aladdin) are the creative geniuses behind what has become one of the most popular shows in the world.'

The meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II" - after his co-worker crush. This foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down and out Krelborn as long as he keeps feeding it, BLOOD. Over time, though, Seymour discovers Audrey II's out of this world origins and intent towards global domination!

Audition Information: Auditions will take place in the Theatre at 15.30-17.00 on Tuesday 9th September. No preparation will be required. Open to all pupils in Years 7-12.

Urmston Grammar School - Headteacher: Mrs R S Wall
pride, participation, empathy

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Rehearsal Information: Rehearsal will commence on Tuesday 16th September 15.30-17.00 and will then run on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. There will be a weekend rehearsal on Saturday 18th October and Saturday 17th January. Pupils (all cast and crew) will also be required on Sunday 1st February for a whole day Technical Rehearsal ahead of production week. A detailed schedule will be provided upon casting.

Production Week: The week of the production will be week beginning Monday 2nd February 2025.

If you would like to register interest in your child being part of our production, please complete the online form [HERE](#).

Trips and Visits 2025-26

Several exciting trips are scheduled in the school calendar, with more to follow. At present the following are confirmed and further details will be shared in the new school year:

Year 7 'A Christmas Carol' at the Bolton Octagon, on Monday 15th December 2025 during the school day (Available via ParentPay from 1st September)

Year 9 'To Kill a Mockingbird' at The Lowry Theatre, Salford on Wednesday 21st January 2026 during the school day (Available on ParentPay from 1st October)

Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Music students Halle; Set Works Concert' at The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester on Friday 17 October 2025

Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students 'Dear England' at The Liverpool Empire on Thursday 5 March 2026 (evening performance)

Year 8; We are waiting for confirmation of a proposed theatre performance for Year 8, this will be accompanied by a workshop. Information to follow asap.

We are also finalising plans for a proposed residential trip for all pupils who will be in Year 9 and above in academic year 2026-2027. This is hoped to take place during the Autumn Term of 2026. More information to follow in September! In addition to these external trips, we will be offering a range of National Theatre screenings- watch this space!

Peripatetic Teaching

As an aspirational faculty, we hope to be providing students with several opportunities to extend their learning experience. To this end, please see attached information regarding our peripatetic lessons in Music and LAMDA ([Our Exams | London academy of music & dramatic art \(lamda.ac.uk\)](#))

For pupils who wish to commence Music peripatetic lesson in September, please complete [THIS FORM](#) (pupils who have lesson currently need not complete the form, it is expected that these will continue unless the required notice has been given)

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For pupils wishing to commence LAMDA lessons, information is attached at the bottom of this letter, or if you require information, please complete [THIS FORM](#).

Student Equipment

For Drama lessons in Years 7-9, pupils are required to have a plastic wallet that will be used to store and collate their resources. We would be grateful if 60p contribution can be made via ParentPay ahead of your child's first Drama lesson. Pupils will receive their wallet in their lesson.

For Drama lessons in Years 10-11, pupils must provide x2 large lever arch files with dividers

For Music lessons in Years 10-11, pupils must provide x1 large lever arch file with dividers

We look forward to welcoming you all into the new academic year in September, and in the meantime, would like to wish you a happy and healthy summer break.

Kind Regards

Mrs Helen Glen & Mr. Alistair Harrison

Head of Performing Arts & Lead Teacher of Music

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- MUSICAL THEATRE
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INDIVIDUAL AND DUO SESSIONS AVAILABLE**

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Why should I take a LAMDA Exam?

There are lots of reasons to take a LAMDA Exam. Improving their levels of self-assurance, confident in the knowledge that they can articulate their thoughts and ideas, and importantly make their voice heard.

Other benefits include reading fluency, a broader vocabulary, enhanced memory and recall, improved English language skills and the ability to structure an argument.

Preparing for a LAMDA Exam helps everyone develop the life skills that are so important for a happy, successful and fulfilled life.

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"Weekly lessons leading to graded examinations have encouraged confidence and self-belief in our young people."

LAMDA Exams Teacher



"LAMDA Exams have helped me gain masses of belief and confidence in myself to express my views."

LAMDA Exams Learner



Contact:

snilandlamda@gmail.com



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