

Urmston Grammar School

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Tel: 0161 748 2875
VAT Registration Number: 120 1656 61



24th November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to all parents to inform you of upcoming musical events and opportunities for your child. Many of our students are involved in extra-curricular music groups in school, but a number more also participate in ensembles outside of school and learn instruments. We are trying to encourage as much music-making as possible for all students, to enrich their school experience and enhance the sense of community we have here at UGS. I would appreciate it if you could talk to your child about the opportunities on offer, and perhaps encourage them to try attending a musical activity, if they have not done so before.

Day	Extra-curricular clubs at Lunchtime	Peripatetic Music lessons available
Monday	Technology Club (sound and lighting for Theatre)	Voice
Tuesday	Orchestra (instrumentalists approx. Grade 2+)	Strings
Wednesday	Junior Choir (Years 7-9)	Piano and Drum kit
Thursday	Mr Burton's Woodwind ensemble	Flute/Oboe/Clarinet/Saxophone
Friday	Senior Choir (Year 10-13)	Guitar and Piano

If your child would like to join an ensemble, they just need to speak to myself or Mr Harrison and turn up on the day for 1.30. If they are interested in learning an instrument, please complete [this form](#).

The Festival of Christmas

Urmston Grammar School's Festival of Christmas Concert is taking place at school on Thursday 15th December at 7pm. Tickets will be available on Parent Pay today and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Names will then be added to a list at the door and there will be no physical tickets distributed. Students are welcome to bring multiple audience members and we very much hope that you will be able to come and help us celebrate the end of a busy term and the festive season. All funds from ticket sales will go towards the purchase of new equipment for the music department, which all students make use of and have access to.

If your child already takes part in any of the following ensembles, they will be expected to attend rehearsals during the day on the 15th, which will finish by 4pm. Students will then be free to leave but expected to return to school for 6.15pm at the latest. There will be at least one member of staff remaining on site between the rehearsal and concert if students wish to stay and bring in a packed tea. In previous years, students have tended to use this time to go into Urmston and have tea with their friends or pop home, if they live nearby. The concert will finish at approximately 8.30pm and students must be collected or make their own way home, with parental consent. A form will be given to all students in rehearsals next week, from which I need parental consent please for their attendance and how they will get home. I have attached a copy with this email also.

Ensembles involved: *Senior Choir; Junior Choir; Orchestra; Woodwind Ensemble; Soloists and other bespoke small ensembles. A small number of students also deliver Readings during the service, which are arranged by Mr Dickson.*

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

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Please encourage your child to attend ALL extra-curricular rehearsals for their ensemble/s. The normal days for this are shown in the table above. There has been some poor attendance this term, with many students professing to be undertaking homework when they are meant to be in a rehearsal. Homework should be done at home and rehearsals for a performance, at this stage certainly, are compulsory. Any students who have not previously joined the choirs and would like to take part in the concert, must commit to attending all rehearsals from this week onwards. All GCSE and A-Level Music students are expected to perform with the senior choir and the orchestra if they play orchestral instruments. Students with instruments should also make sure that the instruments they bring into school are clearly named and that they have their music for the concert if they have taken it home to practise.

Come and Perform Event at Chetham's school of Music, with Trafford Music Service 06.01.23

On the 6th January 2023, student musicians from across Trafford have been invited to participate in an exciting day of workshops and rehearsals, culminating in a performance in the beautiful concert hall – The Stoller Hall. Trafford Music service will be welcoming professional musicians from the world-famous orchestras the Halle Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic and Liverpool Philharmonic, to support their team of tutors. Participation in this day (and evening) event will be considered as an 'Educated off site' day for school attendance records. For further details, please see separate letter from Trafford Music Service, which is attached to this email. Booking can be made following the link in this letter. Please note, the letter also outlines the instruments and required performance standard necessary to take part in this event.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me directly by email. If your child is involved in the Festival of Christmas, I would appreciate a quick return on the consent letter, so that we can formalise all arrangements. Letters must be returned to myself or Mr Harrison.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Joanna Langham

Head of Music

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