



WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS AND NOTICES
A round-up of news from the Music Department.

PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS
Details of recent and upcoming events, as well as links to what's on locally.

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES
An overview of the 15 co-curricular music activities taking place each week.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Including how to support your child with their music lessons, the benefits of taking music grade exams, and how to pay for music lessons.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER 
For news of pupil successes, performances and events, and music listening recommendations, follow us on Twitter: [@Ripley_Music](https://twitter.com/Ripley_Music)

WELCOME

It has been a very busy start to the new academic year, with lots of performances (seven events in seven weeks!) and new developments in the music department. I am always impressed by the enthusiasm pupils display for music and their hard work and commitment.

This newsletter is a new initiative and is designed to showcase pupil success, highlight the opportunities available, and to celebrate the strong music community we have here at Ripley St Thomas. Music is central to the life of the school and the department is very active in providing the very best music education and experiences for our pupils.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Benson in her new role as Teacher of Music. She has a wealth of experience as a teacher and musician, and compliments the skills and specialisms of myself and Mr Gillthorpe. Miss Winstanley joins us as our new Music Administrator, supporting the work of the (very busy!) music department. We also welcome Mr Irwin as our new flute, saxophone, and double reed peripatetic teacher.

I firmly believe that music can have a lasting positive impact on pupils, and the benefits can be seen across their academic studies and the wider education for life that Ripley St Thomas strives to provide. With this in mind, please do encourage your child to try something new and get involved in music if they haven't done so already; there really is something for everyone.

Kind regards,

Dr P J Allcock
Director of Music

NEWS AND NOTICES

Practice Pal

We have begun to use Practice Pal timetabling software to schedule and manage our weekly peripatetic lessons. Through the app, both parents and pupils can view lesson notes and resources, keep track of attendance, and check lesson time for the coming week. If you have not done so already, please create your account via the email invitation sent to the email address supplied to the school and share the passcode generated with your child so that they can set up the app on their smartphone. During the school day pupils can check their lesson time by visiting the TV screen located next to the practice rooms in the music department.

Samba Band

We have recently taken delivery of our new samba kit. Samba Band is a new ensemble that will be rehearsing every Friday lunchtime in MU1 and is open to all year groups. We are extremely grateful to a music fund operated by [Westmorland Youth Orchestra](#) for providing 50% of the cost.

Brass Band

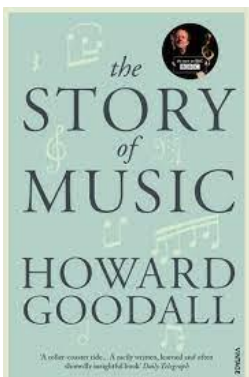
This is a new ensemble, open to all ages and abilities. Rehearsals take place at lunchtime on Fridays in MU2. It is our hope that in future years the Brass Band will take part in school events such as Remembrance Day.

Music tuition scholarships

We are really pleased to announce the creation of 30 scholarships to help pupils start to learn a musical instrument. The scholarships are open to all KS3 pupils (Years 7-9) and they cover the cost of music lessons for an entire term. Scholarships are available for the following instruments: French horn, trombone, baritone horn, euphonium, tuba, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, violin, viola, 'cello, and double bass. We are extremely grateful for funding from the school to be able to provide the music tuition scholarships.

For further information or to apply for a scholarship, please contact the music department via Parentline.

GCSE and A level books



To further enhance learning at GCSE and A Level, the music department has taken delivery of two books that will be used with KS4 and KS5 classes.

'The Story of Music' by Howard Goodall (Vicar of Dibley, Mr Bean, Blackadder) guides the reader through

the development of music by picking up key themes over time. There are lots of funny anecdotes along the way and interesting diagrams

WHAT'S ON LOCALLY

LANCASTER PRIORY



THE DUKES



THE PLATFORM



LANCASTER ARTS



LANCASTER GRAND THEATRE



MORECAMBE WINTER GARDENS



and pictures to illustrate points. This book will help GCSE pupils to situate their set works within the broader historical and cultural context. We are grateful to the school for assisting with the purchase of these books.

'The Rest is Noise' by Alex Ross takes the reader on a journey through music in the twentieth century. The composers and their stories are brought to life in an engaging way, and it is surprising to read about the unlikely encounters between musicians at key points of the last century. Alex Ross covers a wide range of musical styles in his book, and his suggested listening recommendations are very detailed. The depth and breadth of Alex Ross's writing makes this an ideal book for A Level Music students, and the department has gifted each of them a copy to keep.

Musician of the month: September



We are very pleased to announce that our inaugural Musician of the Month is Lauren H. in Year 12. Lauren's commitment to music over many years has been exemplary and has led to her becoming a role model for younger pupils. Lauren has taken part in curricular and co-curricular music with enthusiasm and skill, and has represented the school at countless events including playing the part of Miss Trunchbull in last year's production of Matilda. Outside of school, Lauren won Lancaster Music Festival's 'Search for a Star' and has recently performed to large audiences as part of the festival.

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

The music department provides 630 minutes (a whopping 10.5 hours!) of co-curricular activities each week. These are all entirely free to pupils and are designed to enhance learning taking place in the classroom and in peripatetic music lessons. Give something a go!

SAXOPHONE ENSEMBLE Mondays 12:40pm MU2	JUNIOR BOYS' CHOIR Mondays 12:40pm MU1	JUNIOR GIRLS' CHOIR Tuesdays 12:40pm MU2	UPPER SCHOOL CHOIR Tuesdays 12:40pm MU1	SCHOOL BAND Tuesdays 3:05pm MU1
MUSIC THEORY DROP-IN Wednesdays 12:40pm Music Office	STRING GROUP Wednesdays 12:40pm MU1	ORCHESTRA Wednesdays 3:05pm MU1	GUITAR GROUP Thursdays 12:40pm MU1	FLUTE AND CLARINET GROUP Thursdays 12:40pm MU2
CHAPEL CHOIR Thursdays 3:05pm Chapel	JAZZ BAND Thursdays 3:05pm MU1	MUSIC BREAKFAST Fridays 8am MU1	SAMBA BAND Fridays 12:40pm MU1	BRASS BAND Fridays 12:40pm MU2

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHORAL EVENSONG
 Thursday 10th November:
 Chapel, 4:15pm.

RIPLEY ST THOMAS
 CHRISTMAS CONCERT
 Thursday 6th December:
 Main Hall, 7pm.

CHORAL EVENSONG
 Thursday 8th December:
 Chapel, 4:15pm.

ABRSM PRACTICAL MUSIC
 GRADE EXAMS
 Friday 9th December:
 Chapel, all day.

RIPLEY ST THOMAS
 CAROL SERVICE
 Thursday 13th December:
 Chapel, 7pm.

RECENT PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS



Lancaster Jazz Festival

The Jazz Band worked very hard to prepare a set to perform as part of the Lancaster Jazz Festival, including a newly commissioned work by Anton Hunter. Sadly, the performance was called off shortly before it was due to begin as news of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's passing was reported. It is hoped that the event will be re-scheduled

for later this year.



Evensong: Lancaster Priory

The Chapel Choir, led by Mr Gillthorpe, sounded superb and led the congregation in worship. Very well done indeed; many church choirs would be envious of the quality of your singing.

Evensong: Ripley St Thomas Chapel

It is brilliant to see choral evensong return to Ripley's chapel after a hiatus brought about by Covid-19. The Chapel Choir performed music by Stanford, Wesley, and Gillthorpe as part of the service. Choral Evensong takes place every fortnight in the school chapel and is open to the public.



Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire's Reception

The Jazz Band delivered a strong performance for civic dignitaries and senior military personnel as part of the reception held at Browsholme Hall. The organisers were so impressed with the Jazz Band that they have been invited to perform at

other events later this year.



Ripley Awards Evening

Excellent performances from Lauren H. and the Saxophone Ensemble really added to the celebration of pupil achievement at the Ripley Awards Evening. It was lovely to hear such a varied programme of music.

HOW DO I...

Sign up for music lessons

Pupils can collect a copy of the instrumental and vocal tuition leaflet from the music department. The leaflet contains information about how music tuition operates at Ripley St Thomas and includes a reply slip that must be returned to the music department in order to sign up for lessons.

Pay for music lessons

Termly invoices are sent out to parents and payment is made via ScoPay. For enquiries relating to invoicing, please contact the music department. If your question is about making a payment via ScoPay, please contact Mrs Livesey in the Finance Department. All communication should be made through Parentline.

Contact a member of music staff

For any enquiries relating to curricular, co-curricular, or peripatetic music, please contact the music department via Parentline.

Support your child with their peripatetic music lessons

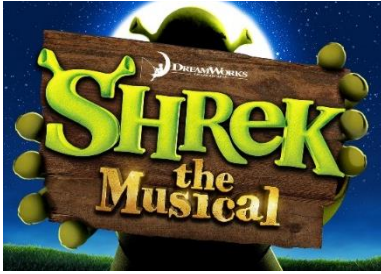
Make sure that you have set up your Practice Pal account. This will enable you to check attendance, view lesson notes, and monitor your child's progress. Ask them how their lesson went and what their teacher has asked them to work on for next time.

Support your child with their practice at home by asking them about what they need to



Ripley Harvest Service

The Chapel Choir assisted with the leading of worship as part of our annual Harvest Service. Following the service, donations were taken to The Olive Branch charity in Lancaster. The service demonstrated how important supporting the local community is to Ripley, and how central music is to worship.



Morecambe Warblers' production of Shrek: the musical, Lancaster Grand Theatre

Well done to Lily S., Eva L., and Jasmine N. (and Miss Jackson in the orchestra!) for their involvement in this show. The production was superb, and you delivered your roles with great

confidence and skill.



Year 7 concert: Giant Slayer, the musical

It was fantastic to see so many of our Year 7 pupils take part in the Giant Slayer concert, and for such a strong turnout of friends and family supporting them. This concert aimed to boost pupil self-confidence, provide a sense of achievement, and

gain experience of performing music here at Ripley. There was a real buzz about the evening, and the smiling faces as pupils left showed that the concert was a success!

RIPLEY ST THOMAS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Dr P J Allcock – Director of Music
Miss L Benson – Teacher of Music
Mr D Gillthorpe – Assistant Principal
Miss A Winstanley – Music Administrator
Mrs G Allen – Piano
Mrs J Barlow – Clarinet, Saxophone, Piano
Mr A Boardman - Brass
Miss S Cox – Voice
Mrs S Edwards – Piano, Organ
Mr S Hankinson – Voice
Miss P Holt – `Cello, Double Bass
Mr R Irwin – Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone, Bassoon
Miss J Jackson – Violin, Viola, Piano
Mr T Lockyer – Guitar, Bass Guitar
Mr A Smith – Percussion
Mrs E Williams - Voice

do and encouraging them to practise on a regular basis. If a minimum of 20 minutes of practice per day is not being maintained then adequate progress is unlikely to be made. Pupils are welcome to use the practice rooms in the music department before and after school and at lunchtime – pupils should speak to a member of music department staff for further details.

Co-curricular activities are a fantastic way to accelerate your child's progress and musical development. All of the weekly co-curricular activities run by the music department are completely free of charge.

We are all surrounded by music, whether we are encountering it in our day-to-day lives or when we are actively listening to music. Discuss what you hear with your child: the instruments, the sound of the music, other songs by that artist or similar artists. Check out the 'what's on locally' section for details about live music events in the Lancaster/Morecambe area.

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