

July 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing at the end of another busy term, which has provided many great opportunities for Music Service pupils. A big thank you to all our pupils for their hard work this year and it is a pleasure to see them continue to progress and flourish in their music-making.

The high standards that they achieve have been reflected in examination results this year, with the most recent set of results this month achieving a 100% pass rate.

From 14th to 21st July we will be taking members of the Youth Orchestra, Concert Wind Band and Youth Choir to Biberach in Germany, where we will perform in four concerts, some in conjunction with the Music School and local choir in Biberach.

In preparation for the next academic year, please take note of the information below.

Any outstanding printed sheet music should be returned to the Music Service office by midday on Friday, 21st July, after which time the office will be closed until the beginning of September.

Registration Forms

Registration forms have been included in this mail-out.

Please could parents take careful note of which groups their child is in, as these may have changed. Details of the rehearsal times are given in the accompanying prospectus.

Please also note that Data Protection guidelines now require parent & carers to tick boxes on the reverse of the registration form for Digital Imagery Consent.

Reports and Parent Consultations

Parents of pupils who have lessons with the Service will find a report enclosed. If you wish to discuss this with your child's teacher, please ring the Music Service office to make an appointment.

Additional Group from September

Due to the number of pupils taking lessons with the Service and attending Music Centre, we will be adding Intermediate Wind Band to our Saturday schedule.

Name Change and Change of Venue

From September 2023 the Grammar School will be known as Les Varendes High School (LVHS). This name change has been captured in our new prospectus, which accompanies this letter. Please note that Senior Strings will be moving to LVHS for their Saturday rehearsals from September.

Could we also ask that when weekday choir members are being collected from LVHS from September, that parents wait in the foyer area of the school and not along the corridor by the cafeteria. This helps with the smooth running of rehearsals in this open space.

Lessons

As a consequence of increased pressure on States budgets, which I am certain you will be aware of, Music Service fees will be adjusted from September 2023. These will be as follows: Music Centre registration will be £117 per year (£78 for the older choirs and £39 for the younger choirs) and fee-payers' lessons £117 per term. The rate for hire of violins, violas and percussion packs for beginners will be £59 and £86 for brass, woodwind and the lower stringed instruments. The charge for instruments hired beyond the normal hire period will be £124 per annum. Grant Aid is available in certain circumstances.

(continued overleaf)

Year 13 Leavers

The staff of the Music Service would like to pass on their very best wishes to all our Y13 pupils who will be leaving us at the end of this term, thank them for their commitment to Music Centre over many years and hope that they will continue with their music-making in adult life. This commitment over many years was recognised by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor when he presented them with their leavers' plaques at their final St James concert at the end of June.

Dates for September 2023

Staff will spend the first few days arranging timetables and pupils should check school notice boards regularly for the days and times of their lessons with a view to these commencing on **Tuesday 12th September**.

Week beginning Monday 11th September
Friday 15th September
Saturday 16th September

Weekday choirs start (Les Varendes High School)
Jazz Orchestra rehearsals start
Saturday Music Centre starts

Future Diary Dates

It is our policy to give as much advance notice as possible of important Music Centre performances. Parents and pupils are asked to take careful note of these and remember that it is a condition of registration for Music Centre that six weeks' written notification is required for absence from performances.

Wednesday 20 th September 2023	Youth Choir Concert at St James with Voces 8.
Saturday 9 th December 2023	Christmas Open Morning, Les Varendes High School.
Friday 26 th January 2024	Winter Concert at St James featuring Youth Wind Band, Youth Training Orchestra, Intermediate and Guernsey Girls' Choirs.
Saturday 27 th January 2024	Winter Concert at St James featuring Concert Wind Band, Youth Orchestra, Youth Choir.
Saturday 16 th March 2024	FGMC Jazz Concert at the PRCPA , featuring Music Centre Jazz Orchestras.
Friday 21 st June 2024	Summer Concert at St James featuring Youth Wind Band, Youth Training Orchestra, Intermediate and Guernsey Girls' Choirs.
Saturday 22 nd June 2023	Leavers' Concert at St James featuring Concert Wind Band, Youth Orchestra, Youth Choir.
Saturday 29 th June 2024	Summer Open Morning, Les Varendes High School.

Prospectus 2023-24

Our updated prospectus once again stresses the importance of commitment and teamwork for successful music-making. I would like to draw your attention in particular to the conditions of registration for Music Centre on page 4.

With best wishes for the summer period and the next academic year.



T. Wright
Head of Guernsey Music Service