

Hello,  
With Christmas preparations well and truly upon us, a great deal of this edition features seasonally related items.  
Music Hub events, Westminster debates and conferences, Music Mark, Composing, (including a rather interesting composition competition for all ages from the ABRSM. See below for more details).  
I hope all your Christmas events go off smoothly, and hope to see you at one of our events.

## Christmas Cracker

As you read this, many schools are rehearsing for the Annual Christmas vocal showcase at the Walsall Arena; a show over three nights where school choirs get to sing with a real band, under the wonderful watchful eye of Ula Weber. Did I mention the lighting show will be fantastic as always?!  
Themed a 'Christmas Cracker' for 2023, this years vocal event workshops/rehearsals & performances take place on November 28th, 29th and 30th in the Walsall Arena. Audience tickets always sell quickly, so book your tickets now before it's too late. *Please note that all school places are now taken.*

[Book here](#)

## Walsall Cultural Education Partnership - Christmas Tea Party

Join us on Thursday 7 December, 4-6pm, at The New Art Gallery Walsall for an evening of meeting, mingling and mince pies! The Music Hubs Jazz Combo will be there!  
FREE  
For teachers, educators, artists, arts professionals & those in the cultural sector, working with children & young people in Early Years, Primary, Secondary, SEN, HE & FE settings.  
Enjoy an evening of stalls, tours, showcases, CPD opportunities, craft workshops, a raffle (your chance to win a free school workshop or group tour) live music & much more...

More information about the evening can be found here: [Walsall CEP Christmas Tea Party | Arts Connect](#)

Your free ticket can be booked here: [Walsall CEP: Christmas Tea Party Tickets, Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 4:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

## WYMS competition—NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES

Right now, you can enter the Walsall Young Music Star competition. The 'Up and Coming' category is for Junior Schools and the Senior category for the competition proper. Cash prizes, recordings, performance opportunities form part of the overall winners package.

Heats: Tuesday 27th Feb. Final: Thurs 21st March in Auditorium 1 at the Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

Enter [here](#). More [here](#)

## Composing to Pictures

Open for applications now, this years project continues to develop our compositional offering to young composers. And now to music coordinators and music teachers alike, a tailored Inset prior to the project proper starting in January.

The project takes four paintings currently on display at the [New Art Gallery Walsall](#), and with insightful artistic comments from Rob Conway (resident art educationalist), and meaningful analysis from the Hubs resident composer Nick Dewhurst, students start to understand how images can be interpreted as musical compositions. The Staff Inset running upto the pupils engagement pre-empt the work covered at the Art Gallery, so that staff have a more full understanding of how to help their students develop well rounded pieces.

Find out more [here](#)

Book [here](#)

## Compose an audio logo

ABRSM invites you to become part of their brand!

### What does ABRSM sound like?

They've just launched an exciting competition that is open to everyone! They need your help composing a short audio logo, inspired by their new brand. Its visual identity features a soundwave, which is based on the rhythm of someone saying 'ABRSM'.

Can you compose an idea that brings this to life?

### Entry criteria

- Anyone can enter from anywhere in the world.
- Create a 5 note unaccompanied solo motif, no longer than 10 seconds.
- You can use any notes, in any order, in any rhythm.
- Submit in any way you like – record yourself on any instrument, write your motif out or send us an electronic score.
- Submit with supporting commentary (max 150 words) that tells us a bit about you, along with your inspiration, approach and idea.

### Prize

By entering this competition you'll be in with the chance to win a cash prize and have your composition featured in material that's used across the world!

Deadline: Midnight on 7 January 2024. [Click here for more and to enter](#)

## Westminster Education forum

Next steps for England's school system

the future for multi-academy trusts | quality, governance and growth | regulatory reform and accountability | meeting local needs | raising attainment

*Morning, Thursday, 16th November 2023* [click here for more and to book](#)

### Next steps for school buildings in England

progress on the School Rebuilding Programme | RAAC and building safety concerns | decarbonisation | community use | policy priorities

*Morning, Wednesday, 13th December 2023* [click here for more and to book](#)

## Music play outdoors

Early years music researcher Stefanie Williams talks about musical play outdoors with young children, focussing on 'the musical characteristics of young children's free play in the outdoors', and to do this, she did an in-depth case study of a particular parent and toddler Forest School group (no relation!), considering the musical play possibilities of the outdoors, as young children explored the world around them.'

Read the full (short) article [here](#)

## Rock n Pop gig

Come and see our Rock 'n' Pop bands perform their first gig of the New Year. We've got some brand new bands performing for the first time as well as some of our pre-existing bands.

Wednesday 17th Jan, 7pm

Tickets cost £4.50 per person and are available from [www.walsallarena.com/whats-on/](#)

## Dates for diaries

### Autumn Term

28th/29th/30th Nov Christmas Cracker Christmas 2023 vocal event workshops/rehearsals & performances in A3 Arena 14:00 - 18:50 Workshops 19:00 - 20:15 Concert

5th/12th Dec Music Centre activities and Concerts TBC

7th Dec Jazz Combo at the WCEP Tea Party New Art Gallery Walsall @ 16:30

### Spring Term

11th Jan CPD: Composers Toolbox 1-4pm at the Arts Centre

17th Jan Rock n Pop gig 7pm at the Arts Centre

Email addresses: [Scott Hollins](#) [Steph Dufty](#) [Monica Hollins](#) [Glen Taylor](#)

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