

Hello,

There are some interesting debates/discussion opportunities this term, not least on the hot topic of AI and it's place in education. Love it or loathe it, it's here and we have to learn to deal with it. The information has come to me very late, so if you're interested in the discussion, get your skates on—it's next Thursday morning (29th Feb)

The WYMS music competition has it's first *live* heats round next week (27th Feb), with the final held in Auditorium 1 on Thursday 21st March. It'd be lovely to see you there to support the wonderful talent on show.

Take a look at our new partnership with Rock Choir *Rock Stars* below. We're very excited about their involvement with our Singing Festival in the Summer this year.

I hope there's something for everyone in this edition

T-Time: Finding the Finances

T-Time is Music Marks new session for classroom and peripatetic teachers to reflect on best practice in primary, secondary and SEND settings, learn from colleagues around the country and discuss relevant topics.

The school budget pressures facing everyone are pertinent. This session is the opportunity to come together with national colleagues who are delivering music in the classroom, to listen and share on the topic: "Together, how do we make music education happen in schools with the strain on school finances?"

Tuesday 19th March 2024, 4 – 5pm

Book [here](#)

Music Mark membership required - more details and how to join for free [here](#)

WYMS competition - Heats take place Tues 27th Feb

Yes, it's here at last. This years heats are 'in person' at the Arts Centre (AKA *Forest*) running between 6pm and 9pm. The sessions are being held in Rehearsal rooms 1 and 2 (at the Arena end of the building)

The Final is on Thursday 21st March in Auditorium 1 at the Walsall Arena & Arts Centre. Proceedings kick off at 7pm

More [here](#)

Next steps for initial teacher training in England

This conference examines the future for initial teacher training in England, following the recent publication of the new Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework (ITTECF), combining the Core Content Framework and the Early Career Framework into a single framework from 2025.

Morning, Monday, 15th April 2024

Book [here](#)

Rock Choir 'Rock Stars' partnership

This years *Summer Singing Festival* (including the *Primary Singing Festival*) is a whole new ball-game. In partnership with Rock Choir *Rock Stars* (junior wing) this years singing festival is being led by leading vocal coach and expert Sonia Eyre, who will be listening to schools perform and offering feedback to students and teachers alike. Sonia will also be taking the workshop element of the day.

We are very excited about this new partnership. If you would like to be involved, see [here](#) for more and to book

Next steps for AI in education

This conference will consider the future role of artificial intelligence (AI) within the education sector.

It is bringing together key stakeholders and policymakers to discuss the opportunities and challenges posed by AI in the classroom, including large language models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT and Google Bard.

Morning, Thursday, 29th February 2024

Book [here](#)

Developing Core Skills in Primary Music

In this full-day webinar, run by [Music Education Solutions](#), you will learn how to support your pupils to develop their skills and understanding in performing, composing & improvising, listening, reading notation, and understanding the history of music. This webinar is suitable for any-one teaching music in a primary school setting following the English National Curriculum, whether a specialist or non-specialist.

20th March (9.30am - 2.30pm)

Book [here](#)

RSL exams now even easier to enter

Rock School have streamlined their examination entry process even further.

With the launch of their [new and improved site](#), this is now done in two simple steps:

- Purchase your exam entry on our online shop
- Complete your exam details via your secure account

Watch a [video](#) to see how to purchase and enter graded music exams.

National Guitar day videos online

As the 11th of February came and went, we received some lovely recordings of guitarists playing such a huge variety of styles; it was truly wonderful to see the range of music on show

I've set up a [page on our website](#) so we can share all the photos in one space. Whatever you did to mark this day, please share with us using the hashtags #nationalguitarday and #walsallguitarday

Melvyn Bragg issues a rallying cry for the arts.

His speech in the House of Lords, launching a debate on the contribution of the arts to our economy and society, has already been **viewed over a million times**.

Responding for the Government, Arts and Heritage Minister Lord Parkinson said that ministers "**agree wholeheartedly with the sentiments Lord Bragg put forward**". He acknowledged that the arts "**remain an integral part of our national life**" and are "**an essential part of what makes life worth living**".

More [here](#)

The National Curriculum Music Conference

The Curriculum Music Conference® is coming to Slough on 14th March! Featuring workshops, presentations, networking sessions, and a trade exhibition this event is ideal for all primary and secondary music teachers to get inspiration and advice for music in your school.

14th March, 9.30am - 4pm

Find out more and book [here](#).

The Music Curriculum Development Day

Sandwell Music and Arts present a day of hands-on workshops

Thursday March 14th 9:30am - 4:00pm

See flyer at bottom of this Newsletter for more info

Call for Education Secretary To Halt "Damaging" Plans To Withdraw Funding From Post-16 Music Qualifications

The intervention (by UK Music) follows Government plans to defund the current suite of vocational Level 3 qualifications for music by 2026. The proposed reforms have dismayed education and industry leaders who fear the move could seriously damage the sector's talent pipeline.

In a letter to the Education Secretary, **UK Music's Interim Chief Executive Tom Kiehl** urges the Cabinet Minister to pause the controversial proposals, which are set to hit around 30,000 young people a year.

In his letter, he warns the proposed pause in funding will have "serious consequences for learners, educators, the talent pipeline, and ultimately the music industry – which contributes £6.7 billion (GVA) to the economy, generates £4billion in exports, and employs 210,000 people".

Full story [here](#)

Sheku Kanneh-Mason becomes Music Masters patron

Read the full story [here](#)

Sources for some of this terms Newsletter include:

- [Music Mark](#)
- [Campaign for the Arts](#)
- [Music Teacher](#)
- [Westminster Forum Projects](#)
- [Walsall Music Education Hub](#)
- [Rock School](#)
- [Classical Music](#)
- [UK Music](#)

Please see included flyer below for all this terms Music Centre gigs

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

Subscribe to our YouTube channel and like our Facebook/Twitter pages to keep up to date with what's happening from the Music Hub

- [Website](#)
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If you wish to unsubscribe please contact admin@walmused.org.uk



SIPS EDUCATION

SANDWELL MUSIC & ARTS Presents

Music Curriculum Development Day

Thursday March 14
9:30am-4:00pm
Guardian House
West Bromwich

Workshops include:
Sing for Pleasure with Ula Weber
Music Technology with Charanga/Conductive Music
Classroom Percussion with SingUp
Inclusive Music with BigTop Musical Adventures
Networking opportunities
Sensory Singing Books ...and MORE!

COST: £30 (discounts for multiple bookings)
Lunch will be provided

For more information and to register visit:
<https://sandwellmusic.org/musicconference>
Email: music.arts@sips.co.uk



Walsall Music Education Hub & Service

Music Centre Spring Concert Dates

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Big Band + Support from the WMEHS Jazz Combo Monday 19th February, 6.30pm Eastside Jazz Club Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Tickets available from: www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/events-calendar/rbc-big-band-19-02-2024	
Spring Music Centre Concert with... Intermediate Wind Band, Jazz Improvisation Group, Phoenix & Senior Strings Tuesday 19th March, 8.00pm A1, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre Tickets available from: www.walsallarena.com/whats-on	
Spring Music Centre Concert with... Fab Group, Junior Wind Band, Best Strings, Apollo Strings Tuesday 19th March, 6.00pm A1, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre Tickets available from: www.walsallarena.com/whats-on	
Spring Jazz Concert with... Jazz Combo, Jazz @ 6 Big Band Monday 22nd April, 7.30pm St Anne's Church, Chasetown, Burntwood Tickets available on the door only	
Senior Wind Band Spring Concert Tuesday 23rd April, 8.00pm A1, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre Tickets available from: www.walsallarena.com/whats-on	

For all dates, you can scan the QR code which takes you to the dates section of our website.
www.walmused.co.uk/music-centres/tuesdays/dates

