

# GRACENOTES

Spring 2023

*Welcome to the latest edition of **Gracenotes**, the newsletter of Haberdashers' Adams Music Department. Find out about what has been happening in the Music Department over the last few months.*

*For information about music at Haberdashers' Adams please contact:*

**Jonathan Wysome**

Head of Music

[jonathan.wysome@adamsgs.uk](mailto:jonathan.wysome@adamsgs.uk)

**Amanda Coomer**

Music Department Coordinator

[amanda.coomer@adamsgs.uk](mailto:amanda.coomer@adamsgs.uk)

**Emma Deacon**

Teacher of Music

[emma.deacon@adamsgs.uk](mailto:emma.deacon@adamsgs.uk)

## A warm welcome to Miss Deacon

We are delighted to welcome Miss Emma Deacon to join our team. Miss Deacon joined the Music Department in January and has gradually taken over the classes Mr Brown was teaching. A French Horn player and a singer, Miss Deacon has a keen interest in musical theatre and is looking forward to getting involved with our productions in the future.



From January 2023, Mr Wysome stepped into the role of Head of Music. Mr Brown will continue teaching Taiko and will oversee the summer production before he retires for the second time in the summer!

## Haberdashers' Musician of the Year



Sixth Form student, Daniel Hayes, represented Haberdashers' Adams in March in the Haberdashers' Musician of the Year Competition at Haberdashers' Hall in London. Dan played Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, accompanied by Mr Wysome on the piano. Dan was joined at the Hall by school captains, Rhianna Otero Salgado and Will Roddy.



# House Music Competition 2023

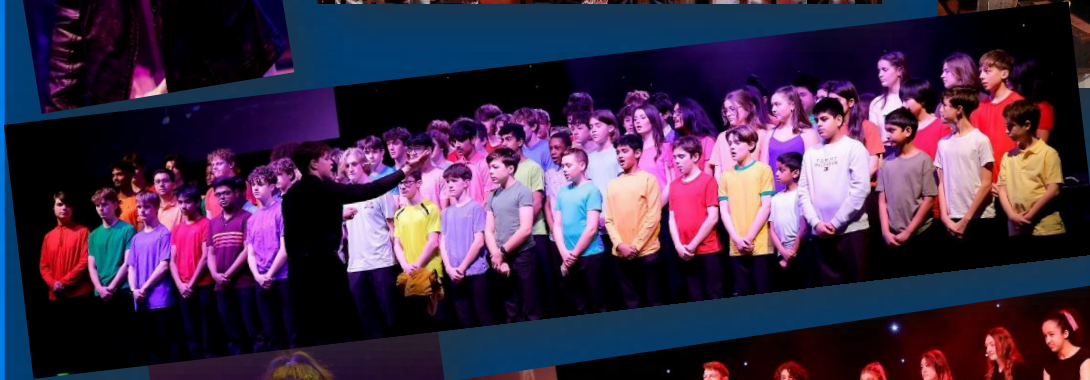
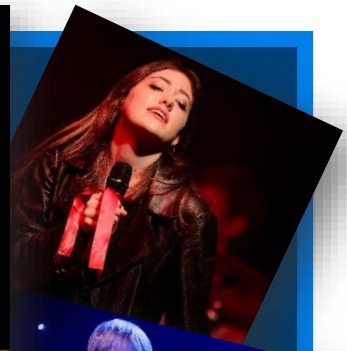
The annual House Music Competition took place in February and for the first time since before the pandemic, we were able to re-instate the evening part of the competition, with an audience of around 400 parents watching. With a fifth House and the school having increased in size overall, we had to review how we could run the competition and allow students in all years to watch some of it live, as we can no longer fit the whole school into the Sports Hall once the stage, lighting, cameras and sound equipment are in place. With the number of solo classes reduced to two age categories, we were able to hold the junior competition in the morning, watched by pupils in Years 7-9, and the senior competition in the afternoon, watched by pupils in Years 10 and above. The ensemble classes and choirs performed both in the morning and the afternoon. The evening event began with performances from the winners of the four solo classes, and then the competition continued with a third and final performance of each ensemble and choir class, after which the results of these classes were announced.

Our adjudicator for the day was Mr Neil Wright. A percussionist, trombone and trumpet player, Neil has been teaching music for over 25 years. He conducts many different groups in the Nottingham area, and since 2016 Neil has been the conductor of the National Scout & Guide Concert Band. We are indebted to Neil for adjudicating the competition over a long day! He was most impressed by the high standard of the performances and found the day very enjoyable.

Huge congratulations to all who took part. In the end, the blues triumphed with Darwin winning across the board. They took the Saull Cup, the Coomer Cup for outstanding individual contribution to the competition, which was awarded to Dominic Shipley, and the overall House Music Competition Cup.









## Royal Marines Band visit

We were delighted to take a group of 36 students to Burton Borough School to take part in a workshop with the Royal Marines Band from Lympstone. It is 8 years since their last visit, which we hosted here at Adams. This was a unique opportunity for our students to learn from first-class professional musicians and to listen to one of the best military bands in the world. The band, from Commando Training Centre, Lympstone, gave a short performance to start the day which included a drum static from four members of the Corps of Drums, who demonstrated the intricate stickwork for which they are famous. The students spent the morning in sectional rehearsals – woodwind, brass and percussion – playing alongside the Royal Marines Band musicians. After lunch, the students and musicians gave a concert for pupils from Newport Infants, Newport Juniors and Burton Borough School, together with invited guests, including Mr Hickey and Mr Wysome.

We were delighted to see Old Novaportan Chris Beal, a trombonist with Royal Marines Band, Lympstone. Chris, who left Adams in 2010, was a key member of our CCF Marching Band, and taking part in band courses during his years in Sixth Form inspired Chris to join the Royal Marines Band Service.





## *Out and about with the music staff*



*Miss Deacon has just taken part in a production of The Little Mermaid with Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company, where she took the part of Aquata, a mersister. She was a very convincing mermaid! Performing as Prince Eric alongside Miss Deacon was Old Novaportan, Liam Sargeant, who took leading parts in our musical productions during his time at Adams. We took the opportunity to catch up with him.....*

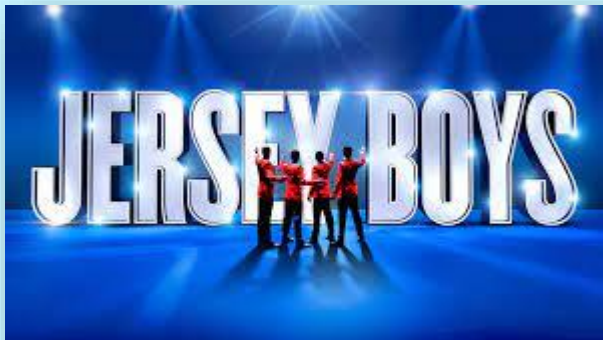
*Having left Adams in 2013, Liam continued his studies at Oxford University, graduating with a 1<sup>st</sup> Class BA Hons in English Language and Literature. Liam now lives in London and works as a Senior Company Communications Manager for Proctor & Gamble working with household brands such as Gillette, Pampers, Pantene, Oral-B and more. He is also a member of multiple live entertainment companies, regularly singing at weddings, private functions and corporate events. Liam can still be seen in the Coach House in the posters for Grease, when he played Danny, and Les Misérables, when he took the part of Valjean.*



*Mr Brown has been busy organising Midlands Taiko Day, hosted at Haberdashers' Adams. This year, the main performers were Taiko Meantime from London, one of only two full-time professional Taiko groups in the UK. We are very pleased that our Taiko players had the opportunity to perform at this event.*

*Mrs Coomer has been to the Royal Albert Hall to the Mountbatten Festival of Music. This is an annual concert by the Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines. From a musical tribute to the late Queen, to Stevie Wonder, Big Band swing, an Irish jig and the iconic Corps of Drums, there was something for all musical tastes. Good to see Old Novaportan, Chris Beal, playing in the trombone section!*





*As choreographer for our summer production, Mrs Mills is very much one of the Music staff team, and she has been to see the touring production of Jersey Boys – the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Mrs Mills thought the show was outstanding and the dancing impeccable!*

*Mr Wysome went along to Jazz Jam, held at Glou Glou in Shrewsbury. Former music teacher at Haberdashers' Adams, Mr Jim Wynn, and his quartet were playing music by Duke Ellington. The plan is for this to become a monthly event, so if you like jazz, do look out for more information.*



## Looking back to the Carol Service



At the end of the Carol Service, Mr Malcolm Brown handed over the baton to Mr Jonathan Wysome, who took over as Head of Music at the start of the Spring Term in January 2023. We are immensely grateful to Mr Brown for coming out of retirement to run the department for 7 months. He will be working part-time in the department until the end of the Summer Term when he will retire – again!

We were delighted to be joined by two Old Novaportans who came back to play with the Orchestra for the Carol Service. Tom Cross and Chris Hose were both very involved with the Music Department during their time at Adams, Tom playing trumpet and Chris playing violin. Chris also took on a number of key roles in our summer productions, most notably the Emcee in Cabaret and Nathan Detroit in Guys and Dolls. He can still be seen in the poster on the stairs in the Coach House. Both Tom and Chris are now doing PhDs. Tom is researching Ice Crystal Icing and Shedding in Jet Engines at the University of Oxford. Chris is in the second year of a Law PhD at St John's College, Cambridge, and is very busy starting to work on publications.







Shakespeare's forgotten rock 'n' roll masterpiece is coming to Haberdashers' Adams from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023! Inspired by *The Tempest* and packed with great pop hits, this juke box musical will tempt you to tap your foot and sing along! Tickets for our fun, vibrant and colourful production go on sale after Easter so look out for more information.

### Dates for your diary

Music Colours Evening	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Hamilton Hall
Return to the Forbidden Planet	11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Hall
Hamilton Concert	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Hamilton Hall

### Instrumental Lessons - Summer Term

Students in Years 11 and 13 will be offered 5 lessons in the Summer Term unless they have specifically requested more than 5. This is because of study leave. Students in all other years will be offered 10 lessons, as normal.

Contracts for 2023-2024 will be sent out after Easter. Please return a signed contract by the date indicated to enable us to make the arrangements for the Autumn Term.

**STOP PRESS:** We have finally raised enough money to buy a new piano for Hamilton Hall. Mr Wysome and the piano teachers will be going shopping after Easter! Thank you for supporting our events, and huge thanks to Adams' FM, friends of the Music Department, for all their hard work. The next item on our list is pedal timpani, so please keep supporting us!