

GRACENOTES

Summer 2024

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.

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Music Captains

A huge thank you to our outgoing Music Captains: Charlie Watt, Will Dally and Joanne Pudota. We are immensely grateful for the support they have given to the department over the past year.

We would like to introduce our Music Captains for 2024-2025: Jaina Amedo, Niah Massam-Simon, Molly Hood and Hayden Nam. Between them, they are involved in many of our ensembles – Choir, Orchestra, Taiko and the summer production of *Grease*. We look forward to working with them over the coming months.



Instrumental Lessons 2024-2025

If you have not yet returned your contract for 2024-2025, please do so before the end of term to guarantee lessons starting in September. For more information, please contact Mrs Coomer.



House Music Competition 2024

House Music 2024 took place in February, and we were delighted to welcome back to Adams Mr Nicholas Moor to adjudicate this, the 20th competition. Nick was Director of Music at Adams Grammar School from 2003-2012, and he set up the House Music Competition in 2005. (There were two competitions in 2005 due to the timing of the competition being moved in the school calendar). Nick studied at the Royal College of Music and he is foremost a pianist, and also a composer. He has taught in schools in both maintained and private sectors, as well as in the Junior Department of the Royal College of Music. In addition, he is a theory examiner for the ABRSM, specialising in high grades. We are extremely grateful to Nick for travelling all the way up to Shropshire from Ely to adjudicate a very long day of performances.

We also welcomed back Old Novaportans Liam Sargeant and Meg Hollands as our surprise act for the evening. Liam and Meg took leading roles in the summer musical productions during their time at Adams, and played Danny and Sandy in our original production of *Grease* in 2013, directed by Mr Hickey. They performed a couple of numbers from *Grease*, and were joined on stage by students playing Danny and Sandy in this summer's production in July.

Congratulations to all who took part in the competition. Once again, Darwin House stormed to victory, winning all three cups: the Saull Cup for their choir performances, the Coomer Cup for outstanding individual contribution to the competition, which was awarded to Will Dally, and the overall House Music Competition Cup.





Music Colours Evening

Music Colours are awarded each year to recognise achievement in and commitment to Music. **Ensemble Colours** are awarded to students who have shown ongoing commitment to one or more of the music ensembles. To achieve this an 80% attendance record at rehearsals is necessary, as well as participation in performances. This year, we awarded Ensemble Colours to 80 students.

Individual Colours are awarded to students who have shown exceptional achievement and/or commitment to music at Haberdashers' Adams. These individuals have gone over and above what is expected and have truly made a difference to music at Adams. This year, Individual Colours have been awarded to:

Year 7: Oliver Peets, Kit Watson

Year 8: Tom Bell, Thomas Neath, Ryan Mboga, James Matthews, Max Tung, Waylon Chan

Year 9: Jiawei Ding, Gevin Jagoda, Matthew Eley, Viraaj Gowda, Arun Franklin

Year 10: George Palmer, Ian Tsang, Hymn Tsang, Ollie Jones

Year 11: Matthew Marsh, Neason Tai, Jack Stevens, Toby Clegg, Luca Voiculescu, Aleks Klos, Arjun Toora

Lower Sixth: James Evans, Hayden Nam, Chloë Massam-Simon, Niah Massam-Simon, Harry Calcroft, Tharuk Jayasundara, Daniel Spencer

Upper Sixth: Sam Shaw, Bosco Chan, Charlie Watt, Will Dally, Joanne Pudota, Tytus Dolowy, Josh Collins, Sam Tincknell, Gareth Tindall

Congratulations to all the recipients of Music Colours. If you have not yet collected the ribbon flash for your blazer, please see Mrs Coomer.



Round-up of other events this year

It has been another busy year of performances in the Music Department, from the Carol Service at the parish church in December to our end of year concert – the Hamilton Concert, which takes place on Wednesday 17th July at 19.30 in Hamilton Hall. To celebrate our new concert piano, purchased thanks to fundraising by Adams' FM (friends of the Music Department), we put on a concert of piano music. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many talented pianists we have at Adams, and it is an event we plan to repeat in the Autumn term. Adams' FM have also financed the purchase of pedal timpani for the Orchestra, something we have wanted for many years.

Students in the GCSE, AS and A Level classes performed in recital evenings in the Spring, an opportunity to perform in front of an audience before their exam performance. This was followed by the Spring Concert, in which all our ensembles took part. After Easter, there was just enough time before study leave to put on a fundraising concert to raise funds for Newport Cottage Care Centre, and it was great to welcome new faces from the local community in the audience.



Haberdashers' Musician of the Year Competition



Outgoing School Captain, Gareth Tindall, represented Haberdashers' Adams at the Haberdashers' Musician of the Year Competition 2024, playing an impressive drum kit piece entitled 'Battercada' by Mike Osborn.

A word from our Music Department Co-ordinator - Mrs Amanda Coomer

At the end of the summer term, I will be retiring after 16 years as administrator for this busy, thriving department. It has been a privilege to work here, with such talented students and with the amazing music staff. I will take with me some wonderful memories of tours, concerts, shows and performances too numerous to mention. I am very pleased to be handing over my role to Mr Sean Massey, who has worked at Adams since 2019 as the woodwind tutor. Mr Massey has a degree in Music from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, and plays bassoon, clarinet, oboe and saxophone. He will continue to teach woodwind and saxophone, alongside taking over the administration of the department.



Grease rehearsals



HABERDASHERS' ADAMS PRESENTS

GREASE

SPORTS HALL

10th-13th July
2024

Pink Ladies



CLASS OF 1959



"GREASE" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), www.theatricalrights.co.uk

Book, Music and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

Click on the QR code to book your tickets.

£15.00 Adults/£8.00 Children & Concessions.