

Hello,

This issue is the final one being produced using Microsoft's *Publisher*. As many of you will be aware, MS are stopping support for the programme in October next year, so here we celebrate the [last year of events](#) presented by WMES (Walsall Music Education Service). Please note that all previous issues of the Newsletter are available for viewing via our website [here](#)

Of course, there's also the usual swathe of reports, news and offerings for those supporting music in schools, not least of which are three of our larger events coming up, namely; Band-stand Bonanza (in the Arboretum), the Robin gig, and crucially our Christmas vocal showcase, this year entitled *Once Upon a Christmas* (already fully booked up). Details below.

With best wishes

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## Celebrate this years events at WMES

A complete guide to Walsall Music Education Services (WMES) events this last year, this [onscreen booklet](#) provides an overview of many of our events that shine a spotlight on the amazing musical talent on offer in Walsall

The huge range of events on offer covers all ages, abilities and styles of music. If you'd like to be involved in any of those listed, please do get in touch with [Lizzie](#) in the office. It'd be great to hear from you.

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## Introducing Part Singing in the Classroom & Beyond

**Led by Ula Weber**

Last CPD Session for music teachers this year – calling all music teachers who sing in lessons or want to develop school choirs.

Teaching primary children to sing in harmony can feel a little daunting, but there are different steps you can take to achieve that magical buzz. This practical and interactive workshop offers simple and fun approaches to singing in parts, and explores a great range of repertoire that will suit any age.

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## Next Steps for creative education in England

This conference will examine priorities and next steps for creative education in England's schools, colleges and HEIs, looking at the curriculum, training and career development in the creative industries.

It takes place with the importance of creative subjects being highlighted in the Department for Education's major *Curriculum and Assessment Review*, in advance of its final report due in Autumn.

For full details including agenda and how to pay, click below.

[Next steps for creative education in England](#)

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## The National Youth Orchestra are going on Tour

Before playing the Royal Albert Hall, the NYO offer a *Free for Teens* concert at Symphony Hall in Birmingham, where the programme will include music from *Star Wars* and Holst's *The Planets*. *Music Educators* can go free too!

Full details [here](#)

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## NCO Auditions open now until end of July

NCO wants to hear from all young musicians, whatever their background, schooling or circumstances. They are particularly keen to increase representation from groups currently under-represented in classical music and to increase the number of children from state schools.

All auditioned NCO activities include world class in-person orchestral coaching with incredible tutors, guest artists and conductors, as well as access to online activities and resources. They

All auditioned NCO activities include world class in-person orchestral coaching with incredible tutors, guest artists and conductors, as well as access to online activities and resources. They welcome auditions for NCO 2026 from young musicians who:

- are aged 8-13 years old (as of 31st August 2025)
- play an orchestral instrument to the appropriate standard and are British citizens or are living/studying in the UK

Find out more <https://www.nco.org.uk/join-in/auditioning-for-nco>

Or email [auditions@nco.org.uk](mailto:auditions@nco.org.uk)

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## The Smile Project (Strategies for Music in Learning-difficulties Education)

Join Music Mark as they speak to Dr Caroline Waddington-Jones about her work with the Smile Project. This vital work aims to improve music provision for learning-disabled pupils in special schools by empowering and upskilling their generalist teachers.

[Read more.](#)

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## Part Singing in the Classroom and Beyond

Ula Webber leads a sensational CPD session at the Arts Centre, and one definitely not to be missed.

Teaching primary children to sing in harmony can feel a little daunting, but there are different steps you can take to achieve that magical buzz. This practical and interactive workshop offers simple and fun approaches to singing in parts, and explores a great range of repertoire that will suit any age.

Read more and book [here](#)

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## Music Educator network meetings (MusE) and *Minimuse*

If you've not managed to make any of the MusE meetings, why not make it a *new academic year* resolution to do so?

Meetings are held termly after school (in a different school location), always include an element of CPD, and it's free!

In the past we have had guest speakers, presentations on all manner of topics relating to music in schools (inclusivity, Early Years, Northern Indian Classical Music, Charanga, Sing Up, and much much more), discussions, updates on Music Service events etc.

For more details, or to register your interest please contact [Steph Duffy](#)

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## The Robin

Once again we'll be heading to the Robin to perform our annual end of year gig. This is an excellent opportunity for our bands to perform at a professional venue and is a great end of year event for our Rock 'N' Pop students.

Weds 16th July. 7pm

Tickets available via the [Robin website](http://www.therobin.co.uk/upcoming-events) ([www.therobin.co.uk/upcoming-events](http://www.therobin.co.uk/upcoming-events))

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## Instrumental Services for Schools

Thinking about introducing instrument teaching next year, or looking to change provider – talk to us....

We are the only DfE approved provider of instrumental tuition in the borough.

All our staff are highly qualified specialist instrumental teachers, with safeguarding training, enhanced DBS, public liability insurance, full Walsall Council recruitment checks, fully resourced lessons and quality assurance of all teaching and learning.

All our tutors receive regular CPD, and in addition, we offer free instrument loan/repairs.

For a no pressure conversation, get in touch with us [here](#) and take the first step to a better

## Black Country Music Hub announces Lead Schools

BCMh (Black Country Music Hub) leader Chris Jones and Music Service leads scrutinised applications for *Lead School* status from the secondary and primary sector. Still open for applications in Walsall are schools representing SEND.

We are pleased to announce therefore that Watling St (Primary) and Queen Marys High School for Girls (Secondary) have been awarded Lead School status for the coming year (2025-26).

We look forward to working more closely with these ambassadors and seeing how they can help foster greater and better music making in Walsall Schools.

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## Bandstand Bonanza

Walsall Music Education Service brings a day of fun, food and festivities to the bandstand at Walsall Arboretum.

Join us for hours of live music from all our music groups and bands. Including the winners of the WYMS music competition, the day promises music from the very beginner groups to our senior ensembles and bands: strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, Jazz, Rock 'n' Pop.

Best of all - it's FREE

Sat 28th June 10:30 - 5pm

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## Musician of the Month

Please explore this resource rich website.

Featured this issue is a *six year* resource pack (including freebies) on musicians past and present

Musician of the Month now produce their EYFS eBooks featuring their Musician of the month. You can get a free one [here](#).

See [here](#) for much more

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## MEHEM Conference 2025: Cultivating Creativity through Music

**27th June, 9.30am - 4.15pm**

Discover creative approaches to music education at the MEHEM Conference for Music Education at The Albert Hall, Nottingham. Explore new ideas on inclusivity, innovation and stretching the boundaries of creativity within the school curriculum. Hear from a variety of speakers, including a keynote from Yolanda Brown OBE exploring 'Do we teach our creative arts creatively?'.  
[Book now](#)

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## Out of the Ark

It's been a while since we included Out of the Ark, and looking at their website at lot has been happening in the intervening months.

A great site for primary school singing, the range of resources on offer is immense.

See [here](#) for much more.

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Sources for selected items in this Newsletter include:

[Walsall Music Education Service](#)

[Music Mark](#)

[www.musicianofthemonth.co.uk](http://www.musicianofthemonth.co.uk)

[GOV.UK](#)

[National Childrens Orchestra](#)

[Sound and Music](#)

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Email addresses:

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## Dates for your diaries

Full details and more: <https://walmused.co.uk/upcoming-dates/>

- **w/b Mon 16th June** [Singing Festival 2025](#)
- **Wed 18th June** [Writing Your Development Plan](#) CPD Session
- **Sat 28th June** Bandstand Bonanza, Walsall Arboretum (all day)
- **Tues 8th July** [Introducing Part Singing in the Classroom and Beyond with Ula Webber](#) CPD Session
- **w/b Mon 14th July** [Live Music](#) Staff Band performing at schools across Walsall
- **Wed 16th July** Rock n Pop Bands live at the Robin 2, Bilston



