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## **MYMS Newsletter - January 2013**

### **Welcome Back**

A very Happy and Musical New Year to you all. A special welcome is extended to **Nigel McDonald**, who is taking over from Andy Austin as the Director of the Alpha Band.

### **Music Director**

As you already know, this will be **Steve Migden's** last term as the MYMS Music Director. We will say farewell to him at the **Spring Concert on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013**. The MYMS Committee will be agreeing the new Job Description at their meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January; the post will then be advertised and our new Music Director will be in post for the beginning of the Summer Term.

### **Royal Festival Hall Visit on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

A large number of you have already responded to the letter posted on the website. This is an exciting opportunity and one not to be missed – please see the separate entry on the website about this. Emailed replies to Richard on [grettonr@gmail.com](mailto:grettonr@gmail.com) will secure a reserved place. Completed paperwork and cheques to be handed in or posted as soon as possible, please. All details in the letter on the website.

### **Christmas Concert**

Many congratulations to everyone involved on-stage and behind the scenes. A very enjoyable and successful evening, with the music, mulled wine and mince pies all going down well – AND it lasted a whole hour less than last year's.....!

### **Snow Warnings**

The weather appears to be about to change for the worse. Any messages about MYMS rehearsals and possible closures will be posted on the website - [www.myms.org.uk](http://www.myms.org.uk)

### **Ensemble Rooms**

- For the next three weeks [11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January], there are school exams in the Gym. The Concert Band will therefore rehearse in the Sixth Form Common Room on the first floor of the Orchard Block.
- An after-school sports activity will be taking place in the Hall instead of the Gym but they will vacate by 4:15. Please avoid entering the Hall unnecessarily until then.
- PLEASE REMEMBER – there should be NO EATING [either sweets or hot food] in any of the classrooms. We had a complaint from the school after the Christmas concert that food had been left in one of the rooms.

### **Subscriptions**

Some MYMS subscriptions are still outstanding. Kay, our Membership Secretary, and I will be making contact with those families later this month.

### **Emails to Parents and Use of Website** – [www.myms.org.uk](http://www.myms.org.uk)

We are hoping to distribute MYMS information much more frequently by electronic means. It is therefore crucial that you inform us of any changes to your email addresses.

### **Emails about other Arts Activities in the Maidstone Area**

We receive a number of emails about other arts activities – concerts, choirs, orchestra, exhibitions, plays, visiting groups – in the Maidstone area. We are being asked to forward these routinely to our email network. We are not allowed – under the Data Protection Act - to do this without your expressed permission so I will be writing separately to you all about this. There will be an option to opt in or opt out of receiving them.

### **Mobiles in Rehearsals**

All players are reminded that mobiles CANNOT be used – or played with - during rehearsals. If you need to get hold URGENTLY of any student during rehearsal times, please ring Richard Gretton, MYMS Manager, on his personal mobile number – 07802-425022 – and he will deal with the matter.

### **MYMS Mobile**

We are going to experiment with mothballing the old MYMS mobile number. So, please text or ring Richard on 07802-425022.

### **Recruitment - £5 Bounty**

We are making various efforts to recruit more players to MYMS. Can I remind all players that there is a 'bounty' payment of £5 per person for every new recruit that they introduce personally to MYMS – the fiver is payable as soon as the new recruit has paid their own subscription.

### **MYMS Committee**

We now have a new Chair – John Marks – and a new Vice Chair – Sarah Carling. We are always happy for new members to join the Committee – ESPECIALLY parents who have children in the junior groups, who might be prepared to support MYMS over a number of years. It is a very hard-working and professional team – but extremely rewarding.

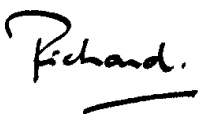
### **MYMS Manager**

Richard Gretton has resigned as Chair of the MYMS Committee after over six years in that voluntary post and has now been appointed as the MYMS Manager. His contact details are in the letterhead of this Newsletter. Please feel free to contact him with any comments, suggestions or new ideas.

### **Future Dates for your Diary**

- **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2013** at 4.30 p.m. - Spring Term 2013 for MYMS restarts
- **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013** – MYMS closed for half term
- **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013** – 7.30 p.m. – MYMS Spring Concert at Invicta GS for all groups
- **Fridays 29<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013** – No MYMS
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013** – MYMS reopens for Summer Term.
- **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013** – Probable date for Bandstand Concert at Brenchley Gardens – date yet to be confirmed by Maidstone Borough Council and Maidstone Area Arts Partnership
- **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013** - Summer Concert at Invicta Grammar School, plus Second General Meeting

Yours faithfully



**Richard Gretton  
MYMS Manager**