

CALENDAR [All at 7.30 in Byng Hall/Thomson Theatre unless stated]

Thursday 1st October [4.00 onwards]
Junior Swing Band and Junior Orchestra at Open Evening

Friday 6th November 1.00pm
Orchestra at Skinners' Day at Tunbridge Wells Assembly Halls

Tuesday 17th November
Autumn concert

All choirs and instrumental groups

Tuesday 15th December

Carol Service in St John's Church, Tunbridge Wells

All choirs and instrumentalists

Friday 18th December

Messiah in Royal Albert Hall

Senior Choir

Wednesday 24th February 2010

GCSE and A level recital

9/10/11th March 2010 TBA

Joint concert with TWGGS and TWGSB

St John's Church

Senior choir and Senior Orchestra

Tuesday 30th March 2010

Junior concert

Junior groups and soloists

Saturday 3rd July 2010

Junior Swing Band at summer fete

Tuesday 13th July 2010

Summer concert

All groups

EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC

Orchestra

A traditional symphony orchestra line-up; strings, woodwind, brass and percussion playing music from the mainstream repertoire of the last two hundred years. They have an important role in the Skinners' Day celebrations. The majority of this group are eligible to take part in the annual joint concert with TWGGS and TWGSB – performing larger scale scores from the 19th and 20th century.

Junior Choir

The junior choir take a very important part in the Christmas carol service and the summer concert and will be performing at our November 'St Cecilia's Day' concert as well as contributing to the Junior concert, when they usually put on a mini-musical.

Senior Choir

They are a crucial part of the Joint concert in March, and of course in their own right in our own autumn concert and carol service, singing a mixture of choral classics and more contemporary music. In December we are again taking part in Handel's Messiah with the RPO at the Royal Albert Hall.

Junior Swing Band

This group, playing pop and swing classics of the last fifty years will be performing at Open evening as well as in our regular concerts and at out of school events.

Big Band

A group of more senior students formed to play big band jazz arrangements and build their ensemble and improvisation skills. We hope to feature some of their own arrangements in our programmes over this year.

Barbershop

A group that is an offshoot of the senior choir singing close harmony music developing a *cappella* performing skills and having fun.

Junior Orchestra

Very successful again last year giving the less experienced instrumentalists in years 7 and 8 a chance to take part in group music making leading to performances at our main concerts and at open evening.

Chamber music

The wind quintet has grown to become an octet or even larger from time to time, producing high quality work, including a key role in the joint concert. As a trio, they made a very successful appearance in the national chamber music competition.

Other chamber music runs mainly on an ad-hoc basis, sometimes led by pupils with staff assisting with repertoire.

ACADEMIC MUSIC AT SKINNERS'

Music is a National Curriculum requirement at Key stage 3 [until year 9] and we teach an enjoyable mixture of theoretical, listening, composing and performing skills. This enables pupils to go on to start a GCSE music course in Year 10, should they wish to. Visits to live music events take place as part of the curriculum.

A significant development this year has been the enhancement of the music computing provision in the department, a welcome addition particularly for Key stages 4 and 5.

At present good size GCSE sets exist, boys using their acquired skills in popular or classical styles to gain high levels of success and prepare them for potential further study.

Music at AS and A2 level follows a rigorous course requiring both performing at a high level and theoretical skills – but here also both popular and classical styles of performance and composition are encouraged, and courses are tailored to meet the individuals' strengths and enthusiasms.

Pupils regularly go forward from Skinners' to further and higher education in both practical and academic aspects of music at Conservatoires and Universities.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

A team of eighteen visiting teachers is able to provide individual tuition on the orchestral instruments, guitar [rock and classical], keyboard, piano, percussion and organ.

Where appropriate, pupils are encouraged to enter Associated Board, Guildhall or Trinity grade exams as a gauge of their progress. The certificates gained are useful additional qualifications when it comes to further education applications.

The higher grades now attract UCAS points for University admission: – for example a Grade 7 Distinction gains 60 points, the same as an A grade at AS level. Additional information and application forms are available from the Director of Music at the school.

WEEKLY REHEARSALS

Monday	12.55	Senior Choir
Monday	3.45	Senior Orchestra
Tuesday	8.40	Wind quintet
Tuesday	12.55	Junior Orchestra
Tuesday	12.55	Junior Swing Band
Tuesday	12.55	Sax group
Wednesday	12.55	Junior Choir
Thursday	12.55	Big Band
Friday	12.55	Barbershop/Choir

SKINNERS' MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MUSIC

2009-10