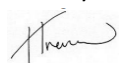


On looking back through the past newsletters, it appears that we didn't produce one in the summer term, despite some fantastic events - so in this newsletter there is a bit of catching up to do!

The autumn term got off to a great start in September, with record numbers of students now learning instruments across the schools and large numbers of students participating in music ensembles both through Wessex Schools Music and within their own schools. All of the first schools are now following the Wessex Schools Music Curriculum, which is providing classroom teachers with easy-to-use video resources to help them to deliver a well-sequenced and engaging music curriculum.

We've had a few events already this term, but most of the time has been spent planning future opportunities, including a visit by the National Children's Orchestra in the spring term and a visit from the Emma Johnson Foundation in the summer term, to bring professional musicians to perform to some of our first schools. There will be a multitude of Christmas events over the coming month and music is part of what makes this time of year very special. Our Christmas concert is on 4th December and all are welcome to come and watch the range of performers that will be taking part (see poster in newsletter).

I wish you all a very enjoyable festive season!



Hanna Trevorrow  
Head of Wessex Schools Music

[music.wessex.ac](http://music.wessex.ac)



Massed Orchestra play Hall of the Mountain King at Wessex Arts Fest in May

### Follow Wessex Schools Music on Social Media



To keep up to date with the latest news from Wessex Schools Music, please do follow us on X (Twitter), Instagram, Bluesky and like us on Facebook!

### Wessex Arts Fest



On 18<sup>th</sup> May hundreds of people of all ages came to take part in our Wessex Arts Fest. The day-long festival at the Thomas Hardy School featured performances in our various performance areas (main stage, live lounge and open mic area) from many Wessex and Thomas Hardy Ensembles and various soloists, rock bands and small groups. In addition to many wonderful performances, the festival also included multiple

workshops including folk fiddle, samba, flute, singing and massed orchestra. There were also special sessions for pre-school children and young people with SEND as well as drop in 'come and try' and music tech sessions for people to try a host of different instruments and computer programmes. The Thomas Hardy drama department gave two student-devised performances throughout the day and the whole day ended with a Barn dance and a Big Drum Groove for everyone to join in with. It was joyous to see so many people of all ages engaging with the arts and we look forward to next year's festival!



### Gospel workshop and performance



In May and June, we were able to offer students in the three middle schools, Thomas Hardye and the Studio school, the opportunity to take part in a joint project with Dorchester Arts and the Town Council. Through funding raised by these organisations and ourselves, we were able to bring some professional gospel singers down from London to work with our students in an all-day workshop. This then culminated in a performance at the town's D-Day commemoration event on Salisbury fields. The relevance of the gospel music, was to highlight the fact that many black American GIs were posted in Dorset during the preparations for the D-Day landings and this unique situation meant that the local population were introduced to new customs and traditions, including gospel music in the local churches. To complement this work and as part of the same funding, we were also able to help facilitate a theatre-in-education performance by local theatre company, State of Play, to visit Year 8s in each of the three middle schools. This interactive drama work helped the students to better understand the issues and context of the GIs' time in Dorset. It was wonderful to see music, drama, history and PSHE all working together to complement each other throughout this project. Thanks to Dorchester Arts and Dorchester Town Council for making it possible.

### Shrek the Musical



Whilst strictly speaking, this was a Thomas Hardye School venture, it seems appropriate to celebrate the achievements of this production more widely across Wessex Schools Music. Around 100 students were involved in the show; on the stage, in the orchestra and in the tech team. The students performed three sold-out shows and the feedback from audience members was fantastic! Look out for more musicals from Thomas Hardye School Performing Arts Department in the future and be sure to buy your tickets early! A huge well done to all involved!

### Thomas Hardye Singers at Sherborne Abbey



It is testament to the wonderful singing work that has been going on across all the local schools, that the choirs at Hardyes are brimming with new faces this term. Rock & Pop choir now has around 80 members and they almost don't fit in our music room! Thomas Hardye Singers welcomed many new faces in September and last week they had their first big performance – Evensong at Sherborne Abbey. This was the first time many of them had ever sung Evensong (for those in the know, it is not at all easy!) and they performed magnificently. To sing in such a wonderful building was a privilege and we thank the Abbey staff for making us feel so welcome. We have been invited back for another time!

### Tomorrow's Orchestra Project

This term, we have been pleased that, with support from the Dorset Music Hub for instrument hire, we have been able to facilitate over 50 new beginner instrumentalists in years 5 and 6 to learn an orchestral instrument in a small group lesson. This project (now in its third year) is partly subsidised by Wessex Schools Music and allows us to offer small group tuition across a range of instruments which might otherwise be too expensive for families to facilitate their children



to learn. Some of these new instrumentalists have already joined our Wessex Schools Music Ensembles and will perform their first concert with us at Christmas. It's very exciting to see these young people at the start of their musical journey!

## Wessex Schools Music Ensembles



We are currently looking for new students to join our ensembles in January. If your child plays an instrument, do consider encouraging them to join one of our ensembles, or an ensemble that is available in their school. Children who play with others often make much faster progress and gain a wealth of musical and personal skills. And it's fun!

### Weds

4pm - 4.50pm Stringalings  
(Training Strings) (Grade 0-2)  
@THS

4pm - 4.50pm Bandemonium  
(Training Windband) (Grade 0-2)  
@THS

5pm - 6.00pm Dorchester  
Children's Orchestra (approx  
Grade 2+) @THS

### Thursday

3:45 - 4:30pm Skylarks Choir  
(Years 2-4) @ Prince of Wales

### Friday

4pm - 5pm Nightingales  
Choir (Years 5-8) @ THS

If you think your child might be interested in joining one of these groups, please complete an [online form](#).

## Looking ahead...

We have many exciting events planned for later this term and throughout the year. Read a bit about them here and put these dates in your diary! Do come and support us if you can!

- 22<sup>nd</sup> November 7pm **Barn Dance** at Thomas Hardye Theatre with the THS Folk Group. Free entry – all are welcome. Free tickets can be booked here: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/70037>
- 4<sup>th</sup> December 5:30pm and 7pm **Christmas Concerts** at Thomas Hardye Theatre. All the Wessex Schools and most Thomas Hardye music ensembles will perform. Earlier concert features mainly the younger students and the 7pm concert features mainly the older students. Free entry with retiring collection. Tickets can be booked here: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/71838>
- 9<sup>th</sup> December **Gabrieli Roar**. We are taking 100 students from across the three middle schools and Thomas Hardye school to sing with 100s of other young singers and professional singers/instrumentalists, in a Christmas performance at Exeter cathedral as part of a project led by the Gabrieli Consort. We are very excited to have a workshop led by a professional singer being delivered on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and then look forward to the

performance itself in December. Tickets to see us in action can be booked here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gabrieli/t-zzajngv>

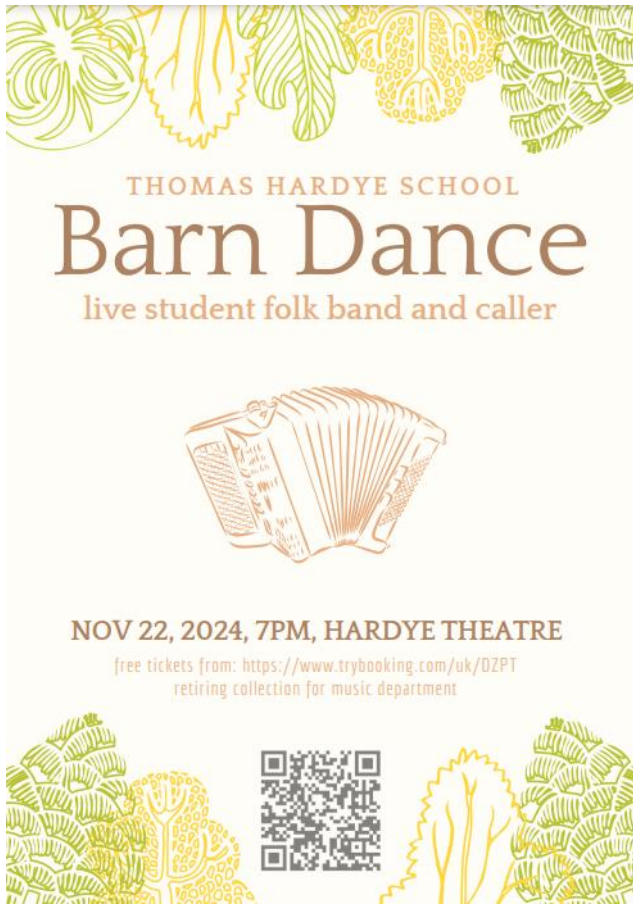
- 18<sup>th</sup> December **Thomas Hardye Carol Service** at St Peter's Church. This magical service featuring the Thomas Hardye Singers will be a wonderful way to end the term – all are welcome!
- 18<sup>th</sup> January **Dorset Music Hub Brass Day** at Thomas Hardye School (see attached poster)
- 30<sup>th</sup> January **Thomas Hardye School Rock Night**
- 26<sup>th</sup> April **National Children's Orchestra workshop day** at Thomas Hardye School – for all children grade 1+ in years 5-9.
- 10<sup>th</sup> May **Wessex Arts Fest**

## Start learning an instrument with Wessex Schools Music


We facilitate music teachers to teach 1:1 and small group lessons across our network of schools. At the middle schools and Thomas Hardye Schools, we can offer a full breadth of instrumental tuition. Tuition in the first schools is available on piano, ukulele, guitar, recorder and strings in most schools.

More info here:


<https://music.wessex.ac/information-about-lessons.html>



THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL  
**Barn Dance**  
 live student folk band and caller



NOV 22, 2024, 7PM, HARDYE THEATRE  
 free tickets from: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DZPT>  
 retiring collection for music department




Wessex Schools Music  
 and  
 Thomas Hardye School  
 present

## Christmas Concerts 2024

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>  
 December  
 Concert 1: 5:30pm  
 Concert 2: 7pm  
 Thomas Hardye School Theatre

Book your free ticket here:



Free entry with retiring collection in  
 support of schools' music




CAROL  
 SERVICE  
 THE  
 THOMAS HARDYE  
 SINGERS

WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER  
 7.30pm  
 ST PETER'S CHURCH, DORCHESTER

FREE ENTRY  
 WITH RETIRING COLLECTION




Are you a young brass player  
 looking for your next challenge?  
 Or would you like to explore if  
 playing a brass instrument is for  
 you? Then come along to our...



### Brass Experience Day

Led by musicians from the Royal College of Music

Saturday 18th January 2025 11:00am to 3:30pm

Venue: Thomas Hardye School, Dorchester, DT1 2ET

Ages 7 - 18 years



The day's programme will be...

- 11:00-11:45: 'Have-a-go' session where new and experienced players can try out different brass instruments (families welcome)
- 11:45-12:30: Concert by the 'Stately Brass' Quintet from the Royal College of Music (families welcome)
- 12:30-12:45: Question-and-Answer session with the Royal College students about pathways into music college (families welcome)
- 12:45-13:30: Lunch break
- 13:30-15:30: Workshop for young brass players from beginner to Grade 8 ability (booking essential / students only)

Use this link or the following QR code to secure a place on our Brass Experience Day:  
 It is possible to turn-up on the day without booking - but places on the workshop session may not be available

