



## **Music and Performing Arts**

### **Kings Monkton and IMS Cardiff - an inclusive approach**

KMS places a strong emphasis on providing excellent opportunities to all pupils in music and performing arts through the unique partnership with IMS Cardiff since 2015. Particularly the inclusive nature of the provision is to be recognised, including children with mild to severe additional needs without prejudice, while maintaining a high standard of results throughout all productions.

IMS Cardiff is run by Immanuel Voigt and Daphne Chook who lead a team of 17 tutors, all of whom have performance degrees and pursue professional careers as musicians and educators.

The below document summarises all music and performing arts-related productions and provision which have taken place in the academic year 2017 – 2018.

### **Individual lessons**

Individual music tuition in all instruments, singing and music theory is provided throughout the week and on Saturdays by IMS Cardiff. All lessons take place in Kings Monkton. Fully sound-proof teaching rooms, acoustic Yamaha pianos, an Essex grand piano as well as digital pianos, keyboards and two full-size drum kits as well as the state-of-the-art recording studio provide excellent facilities.

### **Music Foundation**

For Kings Monkton's reception, foundation and year 1 and 2 pupils, IMS are providing a unique early-childhood music curriculum. Based on the research and methods of Professor Edwin Gordon, the weekly group classes develop a strong sense of rhythm, intonation and improvisation in young children to develop general musicality and prepare them for the study of an instrument.

### **GCSE support**

IMS provides additional GCSE support for pupils taking GCSE music to supplement the class-room teaching through individual tuition to ensure their potential is fulfilled.

## **Bands and recordings**

Instrumentalists are grouped into bands by IMS, playing music from Rock'n'Roll to contemporary pop music like "Rock around the clock" or "Uptown Funk". This greatly boosts personal and musical confidence, team working and collaborative abilities as well as makes music fun and gives pupils a chance to explore popular music alongside the classical or jazz music studied in their individual lessons. *Pentagon*, one of Kings Monkton's junior bands consisting of five primary school pupils, won the Musicianship Trophy at the South Glamorgan Music Festival for Young Musicians, which took place in May 2018. As a result, they were invited to perform at the Gala Concert in presence of the Lord Mayor and Lord Lieutenant.

Another recent success was a year 6 pupil's original song being featured on Cardiff Radio. IMS arranged for her song to be recorded professionally in Kings Monkton's recording studio.

## **Primary story writing & musical**

The annual all-in-house production of our primary musical was *The Wishing Tree*. Based on a short story by a year 3 pupil, which was selected as the winner of the annual story-writing competition, IMS Cardiff produced a 45-minutes long play which was rehearsed during the spring term and performed just before Easter. The unique collaborative nature of using a short story written by a primary pupil as the basis of an original script and original music offers an opportunity for all creative parts of the school to work together in creating a memorable performance.

## **Secondary musical**

This year's production of *Oliver!*, Lionel Bart's musical based on Charles Dickens' novel *Oliver Twist*, was a phenomenal success, considering it was the first ever production of this scale in KMS. Auditions in the autumn term 2017 produced a very varied cast, both in terms of age and ability. Most pupils had no previous experience and the number of pupils with additional learning needs was high, including several of the lead roles. Despite this, the performance at The Gate Arts Centre was a huge success, as becomes apparent from parents' testimonials and the review which was later published in QA Education (both attached to this document). Pupils received group tuition as well as individual help with their singing and acting provided by IMS.

## **Primary and secondary school choirs**

Kings Monkton's primary and secondary choirs were established by IMS in 2016 and have performed on numerous occasions in internal events as well as externally, such as the 2017 Carol Service in support of the Ronald MacDonald charity. In December 2018, both the primary and secondary choir will perform in Kings Monkton's Christmas Showcase in the Wales Millennium Centre alongside the Melingriffith Brass Band.

## **Chamber choir**

Kings Monkton's chamber choir rehearses weekly and offer an opportunity for the more serious singers among the pupils to achieve a higher standard and study more complex music in a smaller group setting. The chamber choir is Kings Monkton's competition choir (see page 4).

## **Staff choir**

To further emphasise team-building as well as to create a general music culture among staff, the Kings Monkton staff choir rehearses weekly since June 2018. The aim is to perform at selected internal concerts which will also inspire pupils in their own music-making.

## **Performance opportunities**

At the end of each term, IMS puts on the Student Showcase, offering all pupils a performance opportunity in a friendly setting in front of peers and parents.

In addition to this, regular special events supplement the offer of musical opportunities. This year, to name a few, Kings Monkton hosted a Piano Festival with distinguished pianist Benjamin Frith, a Flute Festival with internationally acclaimed flautist Sami Junnonen as well as a Cultural Exchange Concert, featuring music from pupils' own cultural backgrounds.

## **Presentation evening**

The annual presentation evening offers an opportunity to showcase pupils' achievements throughout the academic year. Musical interludes feature ensembles and soloists who audition for performance slots in this prestigious event held at the All Nations Centre.

## **Talent show**

In collaboration with the Kings Monkton Parents Association and under artistic supervision of IMS, the annual Talent Show offers another great opportunity for children to showcase their talent, be it gymnastics, poetry, music, dance or comedy, solo or in groups. Winners from primary and secondary get awarded additional coaching and tuition as well as are put forward to perform in the presentation evening or external concerts.

## **Christmas concert in Millennium Centre**

This year Kings Monkton will put on their first big external Christmas Showcase. The concert is organised by the KMPA alongside IMS and will feature the Melingriffith Brass Band and choirs, ensembles and soloists from Kings Monkton. The venue this year will be the Wales Millennium Centre.

## **ABRSM exam visit**

For pupils taking associated board examinations, IMS Cardiff are getting a termly in-house exam visit to provide Kings Monkton pupils with the luxury of having their exams in a venue they are familiar with as well as to avoid having to miss out on school lessons by having to visit one of the local exam centres.

## **European Piano Teachers Association**

This year Kings Monkton once again hosted the European Piano Teachers Association piano competition in February. This event offers all pupils the opportunity to hear some of the area's best young pianists perform in front of a distinguished adjudicator in the first regional round of this national competition.

## South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians

This year Kings Monkton also hosted the South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians for the second time. The festival is one of the region's longest-standing and biggest music festivals, with over 350 children up to age 23 performing each year.

This year, Kings Monkton's very own chamber choirs competed in the festival, as well as the above-mentioned *Pentagon* band as well as numerous soloists. Among the successes were Gold for Jaden, a guitar-playing singer from year 6, Gold for Harriette, a classical singer from year 6 as well as the musicianship trophy for the *Pentagon* band.

### ***Anonymised testimonial from the mother of one of the lead roles in Oliver! (Performed in February 2018 at The Gate Arts Centre).***

*"I just wanted to thank you all for the wonderful evening last Saturday at The Gate. It was such a moving experience for our family and was absolute proof that we were so right in choosing Kings Monkton School for our son. When we first visited with Mr Norton back in 2015 we were desperate as we knew that a mainstream school could be very damaging for a child with autism. With Mr Norton and SNAP Cymru's help we managed to prove that KMS was the only school for him. He is so happy now because this decision was made, and we are utterly thrilled with how things have worked out.*

*Kings Monkton is such a wonderful school because the teachers give ALL their pupils the opportunity to shine. In his primary school he was the awkward child that was shoved at the back in all school performances. At KMS he is given the title role!*

*I have never been prouder. He never ceases to amaze me at the hurdles he chooses to overcome, especially since he has been at Kings Monkton. Last Saturday night he refused to let autism hold him back at all, and I realised what a wonderful example he is to all of us to persevere, so we achieve our goals. The tears barely stopped flowing.*

*Thank you again for all your hard work and efforts with my son. I know it could not have been an easy task, but your efforts mean that this child's self-esteem has taken one massive leap."*