



29 June 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

As a parent/carer closely involved with music at Wood Green from September, you may already be aware that there will be changes to staffing in our music department next year. I am writing to inform you of our arrangements for September and to reassure you that our full music programme is continuing and growing next year.

We are sad to be saying farewell to Mr Cox and Mrs Willett, after many years of fantastic service to music at Wood Green. We wish them both every success in their exciting new paths, Mrs Willett as Head of Music at Chipping Norton School and Mr Cox as Senior Leader in the County Music Service. We are delighted that Miss Thomas will be teaching full time from September and also that we have recruited Clare Laughlin, as Acting Head of Music. Mrs Laughlin has taught in other West Oxfordshire schools and has been Head of Music previously in Warwickshire. She is aware of the strong reputation of Wood Green and we are looking forward to her joining the department. Together with Andy Kelly, who is our Music Technology specialist, we will continue to offer the full curriculum, led by Mrs Laughlin, including GCSE Music and A Level Music and Music Technology, and the Excellent Musician Programme in the 6th Form for students with a particular talent who plan to study music beyond school. We have some excellent Music Leaders recruited to this programme for September.

The full extra-curricular music programme will continue, with all current ensembles running next year. Miss Thomas, who already has led ensembles and been on our music tours, will coordinate extra-curricular music from September. We have plans to develop orchestral playing further next year and to run a production jointly with Drama in addition to our usual concerts and tours.

Wood Green has a reputation as one of the top music schools in Oxfordshire and I am fully committed to maintaining this and improving further. After the musicians return from this year's tour to France, we look forward to our summer concert on Wednesday 15th July at 7pm, which is always a highlight of the year.

I hope this reassures you that music will continue to be an important part of our school and that you will encourage your child to make a full contribution to the excellent opportunities available.

Yours sincerely

Mr R W Shadbolt
Headteacher