

# Cleves School

## Music Newsletter

### 17th July, 2025

And there we have it! Another year goes by of incredible performances and musical experiences for all our wonderful children. It has been a really busy year with choirs performing at numerous events in and out of school and our orchestra having their debut performance at none other than The Royal Albert Hall. It really has been a great year of music making and this newsletter sums up our final term and what our children got up to.

The summer term started off with the last few weeks of rehearsals before our annual Cleves Concerts showcasing all of our musical ensembles and choirs. For the first time, we had two identical concerts with all year groups represented instead of a lower school concert and an upper school concert. This worked really well as it meant all our choirs (all three of them now) could come together to form the "Cleves Mega Choir". At the end of the concert, 200 children raised the roof with two songs they'd all learnt specially for it.

Photos of the concerts are below which saw close to 300 children performing in their groups. The concert spanned 900 years of music with the Senior Choir performing a piece unaccompanied, and in three parts, written 900 years ago. We also saw our choirs performing music only written a couple of years ago, such as, Little Blue by Jacob Collier. As well as all our fabulous voices we had all our instrumental ensembles too with the orchestra performing a special arrangement of Morricone's iconic piece, Gabriel's Oboe from the film, The Mission. Saskia in Year 6 performed this brilliantly. We also had our handbell group, ukulele group, steel pans groups performing as well. The ukulele group and the Senior Choir came together in glorious harmony to perform Ho Hey by The Lumineers with Kimi in Year 6 providing the solo brilliantly.





After our Summer Concerts came to an end, the performing continued in our first ever rock band performance in the area outside the Year 6 block. The party continued with a PTA bar offering up refreshments for everyone with all the proceeds going towards our music provision at the school. The bands played brilliantly and really added to the celebratory and positive atmosphere. The photo below is the Scriven brothers rocking out the crowd!



After our Summer Concerts our attention turned to the Elmbridge School Choirs Festival and our Year 3 and 4 choir coming together to perform their own song but also perform with four other schools from Elmbridge. The children performed brilliantly and really raised the standard of what is achievable with our year 3 and 4 choirs. The children performing also got the opportunity to be accompanied by an instrumental ensemble made up of string instruments and a harpsichord. They were also treated to a short performance from them as well linking our theme of "The Seasons" all together nicely with Vivaldi's iconic piece. It was doubly nice that some children got to perform with their siblings as well who go to Oatlands School! There are some photos below of the group performances and Cleves' performance as well.







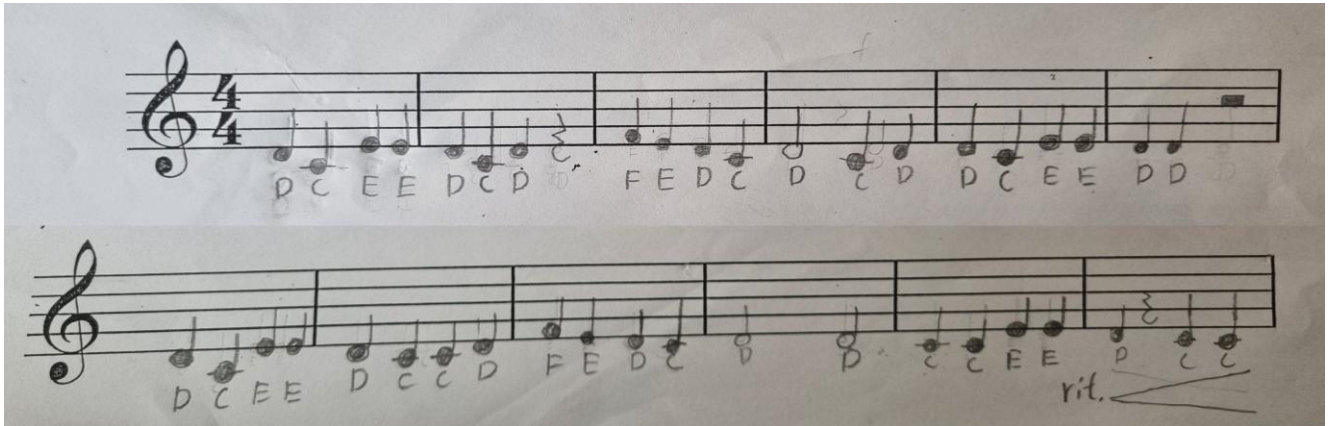


Following on from our Elmbridge School Choirs Festival we had a performance at The Weybridge Fayre! This was the first time that Cleves had taken part at the Weybridge Fayre and those performing were unfazed by the audience of around 300 people! Our ukulele group accompanied our Year 6s from the Senior Choir to perform a selection of songs that people could sing along to. All children that took part represented the school brilliantly and many people came up to Mr. Kilhams afterwards and said how incredible they were and didn't believe they were in primary school still!





It hasn't all been performances though with music and compositions being made in class as well. Year 5s have been focusing on their compositions using five notes on the staff and different note values. They used the glockenspiels to help create their own pieces in pairs and here are two great examples. These compositions were put on the big screen for their classes to perform as well. In the classroom it would seem we have some Mini Mozarts in the making! The work below is Elson and Henry's from 5N.



As we always do at this time of year, we say goodbye several times to our wonderful Year 6s and this normally starts with our Leavers' Service. It is a really moving service with our Year 6s sharing their treasured memories and Year 7s coming back to give some top tips and encouraging words for starting secondary school. It is also the last time our Senior



Choir get to perform before the Year 6 production takes over. This year our year 6s from the Senior Choir performed the piece, You Will Be Found. It was a really powerful performance and saw them all finish the song arm in arm. Some have performed in the choir together since Year 3! They sang their hearts out and it was a great way to end our musical year for the Senior Choir. We were also treated to solos from Sennen and Megan in Year 6 on the piano as people entered and left the church.







In the same week we saw the Surrey Arts Tuning Up concerts as well which saw two classes from each year group performing to parents on their instruments they have been learning all term. These are a great showcase and culmination of a term of learning with a specialist teacher. These went really well and we hope that many children consider taking up an instrument and then with a bit of time see them in our school orchestra. Talking of which, is ever growing! Before the end of term Mr. Kilhams ran a 'come and play' session for anyone who plays an instrument and the orchestra nearly doubled in size in one session! They had fun playing the theme from Pirates of the Caribbean and Mr. Kilhams looks forward to exploring new music next term with a possibly trip to The Royal Albert Hall again as well.



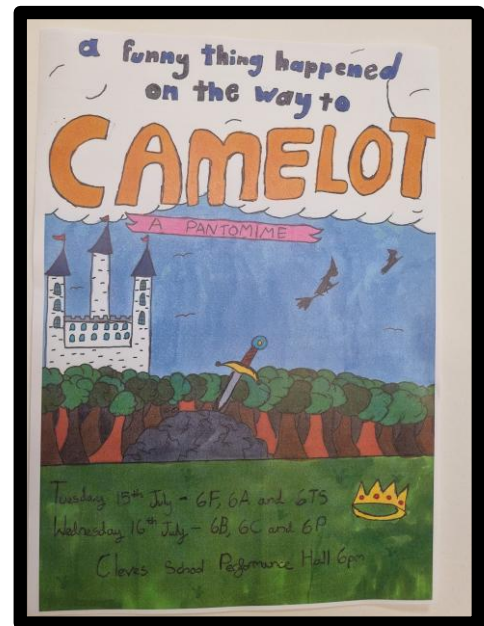
A huge congratulations to all children who represented the school in an ensemble or choir this term. We have had some amazing performances across the term and it is only through hard work, commitment and lots of rehearsals that they are possible so well done to everyone and Mr. Kilhams looks forward to an even bigger and better year for 2025 - 2026.



The year ended with two incredible performances by our Year 6s in their production, Camelot! There were some inspirational leads but everyone performed so well and Ms Forbes and Ms Christian were blown away once again! A huge well done to everyone and a big thank you for all who helped make it the success it was.

Well done to all children who took exams on their instruments or performed outside of school. There are too many children to mention them all individually but you know who you are!

Our very own Steel Pan Groups have had a busy term as well. With the weather being almost the same as that in Trinidad and Tobago, they have been in their element and below is a report from Lizzie Gilbert their teacher and some photos.



***The Calypso Crew steel bands have had a fantastic year. The year 4, 5 and 6 bands all performed at the Oatlands's Village Fayre. They played a selection of traditional Caribbean and popular tunes, in the beautiful sunshine, to a really appreciative crowd. The next performance was the Cleves Summer concert and year 6's performance of The Wellerman had everyone clapping along. Our final gig was also on a gloriously sunny day, at the Cleves Fete in the field. The bands have gone from strength to strength and have really impressed with their dynamic contrasts and performances.***

There are still a few spaces available in the year 4, 5 and 6 bands for September. If your child is interested, please contact Lizzie on 07900 380953.



Mr. Kilhams would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents that ensure their child/children at all our rehearsals, remember their instruments, turn up to support at events outside of school and much more! What a brilliant summer term and a great way to round off a brilliant 2024/2025!