

School Music Bulletin – Issue 08

Learning music strengthens the brain's executive system; it trains focus, memory, and self-control all at once.

Top Tip: Build Notation Confidence Through Everyday Singing

Did you know that simply **showing music notation regularly**—even without formally teaching it—can significantly boost pupils' confidence and readiness to read music?

At Wymondley JMI, pupils encounter notation every week in singing assemblies, choir, and music lessons. Even teachers who *don't* read music themselves find it easy to incorporate. Just like turning on subtitles helps children become stronger readers, **seeing music on the screen while singing helps them subconsciously absorb its patterns and principles.**

Why it works:

- Pupils start to recognise that melodies **move up and down** on the staff.
- They begin to notice **differences in note lengths**, such as filled vs unfilled notes.
- Regular exposure removes the “mystery” of notation and makes it feel normal—even fun!
- Early familiarity (KS1 and KS2) makes later decoding **much easier**.

Try this simple routine:

Next time you lead singing—whether in a classroom, assembly, or choir—**display the notation** for the children to see. Even if you don't plan to teach it explicitly, just having it up makes a powerful difference.

Small change. Huge long-term impact.

You Are Not Alone: Support for Non-Specialists

If the thought of opening a digital score still feels a bit brave, help is right around the corner. Our Lead Schools are specifically available to support non-specialists to deliver Music. They can offer demonstrations on how to navigate these features, which are integrated within your Charanga or Sing Up curriculum.

Ally Chadwick I am proud to be the Headteacher of Wymondley JMI School, a thriving and charming village primary school near Hitchin. At the school, I especially enjoy group instrumental teaching, leading ensembles and singing with the pupils of Wymondley, who are always in fine voice. My musical journey began with the gift of a recorder on my 5th birthday. I learned to play brass through tuition at my local brass band as a child - and I'm still playing with my local brass band today.

[Lead School Contact Form – Fill in form](#)

Call for Contributions: School-Authored Music Newsletter

A new **termly, school-authored music newsletter** — written *by schools, for schools*.

We invite all Hertfordshire schools to contribute **short articles, case studies, reflections, or examples of practice**. Submissions might include:

- curriculum developments
- ensemble or extra-curricular projects
- cross-curricular work
- pupil-voice-led initiatives

- performances or events
- research-informed approaches
- anything that spotlights music-making in your school

Submit your article for consideration in the first edition

Deadline: 2 March 2026

We look forward to amplifying school voices and learning from one another through this new collaborative platform.

Upcoming Events & Networks

Secondary Music Network – Online Session

We are pleased to invite you to our next **Secondary Music Network** event — an exciting opportunity for music leads and classroom teachers to connect, share practice, and gain new insights.

Date: Tuesday 3 March 2026

Time: 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Location: Online

Session Leads: Tor Cooper, Francis Mullaby and Sam Chadwick

Booking link: [🔗 Mid, South and West Secondary Music Network \(2\) – Fill in form](#)

Primary Generalist Teachers Leading Music



11 February | 3:30–4:30pm | Online

Hosted by **Grace Hawksbee**

Designed for primary teachers leading music alongside other subjects. Expect:

- Practical ideas and resources
- Confidence-building strategies
- Peer networking and shared problem-solving

Booking link: [🔗 Networking for Primary Generalist Teachers Leading Music – Fill in form](#)

Early Years Music Network

24 February | 4:00–5:00pm | Online

Hosted by **Sarah Todd & Tom Robinson**

This session focuses on how music supports **language development, phonological awareness, memory, and early communication**, closely aligning with the Literacy & Music Research Programme.

🔗 Booking link: [Early Years Music Networking – Fill in form](#)

Primary Music Networking

Date: Tuesday 17th March 2026

Time: 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Host: Sally Nicholson

Topic: Practical session with rhythm work, notation and singing.

Venue: Haileybury Turnford School

Booking link: [🔗 East Primary Music Networking – Fill in form](#)



Haileybury Turnford
Primary School
Network Meeting
Tuesday 17th March
4.00pm to 5.00pm

This will be a practical session with rhythm work, notation and singing.
There will be a resource pack to take away and use in your classrooms straight away

To register please use this link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/LLcvADue2U>

Any questions please email Sally Nicholson, Faculty Leader
- Creative & Performing Arts
at: nicholson@haileyburyturnford.com

Logos at the bottom include: Hertfordshire Music Service, Artsmark Gold Award, Arts Council England, and Ofsted Good Provider.

BBC Get Singing is a new resource to get 11-14 year olds singing together in and out of the classroom. Explore the newly filmed performances, activity films, scores, backing tracks and guidance notes.

[BBC Get Singing](#)

Partners

Royal Ballet and Opera Schools

Immerse your classroom in the world of opera, ballet and stagecraft through free teacher CPD, interactive live lessons and curriculum-based resources for schools in singing, dance and design for primary and secondary teachers.

[🔗 https://www.rbo.org.uk/schools/resource/primary-sing-harrow-spring-26](https://www.rbo.org.uk/schools/resource/primary-sing-harrow-spring-26)

Here's the link for the Stevenage CPD:

www.rbo.org.uk

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<https://www.rbo.org.uk/schools/resource/primary-sing-hertfordshire-spring-26>

Info and sign-up are here:

www.rbo.org.uk



Stay Connected

You can book time to meet with our **Head of Participation & School Music, Christina Luchies**, using Bookings or contact directly:

christina.luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Book a meeting: [https://outlook.office.com/bookwithme/...](https://outlook.office.com/bookwithme/)

Lead Schools for Music – Support Available

Would you like to:

- Ask a question
- Arrange a face-to-face or online meeting
- Schedule a phone call
- Organise a school visit

You can connect with one of our **Lead Schools for Music** by completing the request form below. The Lead School will contact you directly to arrange next steps.

[Lead School Contact Form: https://forms.office.com/e/k3MsZFayS4](https://forms.office.com/e/k3MsZFayS4)

Spring 2026 CPD & Networking Events

We warmly invite all music educators across Hertfordshire to take part in any of our sessions. You are welcome to attend as many sessions as you wish, and there is no limit on the number of staff members from your school who may join—everyone is encouraged to get involved.

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Topic	Booking Link
4 Feb	3:45 - 4:45 PM	SEND Music Network	Online	Joint schools' concerts planning, Sound Sensations Update	SEND Music Network (2) – Fill in form
11 Feb	3.30- 4.30pm	Primary Network	Online	Networking opportunity for Generalist primary teacher leading music	Networking for Primary Generalist Teachers Leading Music – Fill in form

24 Feb	4:00 - 5:00 PM	EYFS Music Network	Online	Musical skills & language development	Early Years Music Network (2) – Fill in form
4 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Secondary Music Network Mid, South and West	Online	GCSE and KS4/5 Composition and moderation The future of A-Level Music	Mid, South and West Secondary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
4 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Secondary Music Network East	Online	Boys engagement with music	East Secondary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
17 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Primary Music Network East	Haileybury Turnford School	Practical session with rhythm work, notation and singing	East Primary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
18 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Primary Music Network North	The Priory School	Baseline continuation & starting ensembles	North Primary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
26 Mar	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	SEND Joint Music CPD	SouthField School	Music for Regulation in Mainstream and SEN settings	School Music CPD - SEND – Fill in form

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