



# ASCA Music Newsletter

## Spring 2016

Welcome to our spring 2016 newsletter. This is the first one of the school year due to ASCA music becoming so very busy and numbers soaring, which has certainly kept me on my toes! At the beginning of the school year we had around 155 students on our books and today, at the latest count, we have 230 children across the schools which is an increase of around 48%. This has been helped by the employment of 4 new tutors and the wonderful work they and our other tutors are doing and for the children's dedication which has helped encourage others to sign up. Our ASCA concert and the numerous assemblies where children often perform has really been a platform for us to be able to show what we can do and they have been fantastically received. And of course we cannot forget the first ever ASCA music open event that very successfully took place in October at Ramsey Junior School.

We'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your continued support and for your communication with myself and the other tutors, as this is really important to us.

### New tutors

We were very lucky to be able to take on new tutors last term to fill in the gaps, which helped us to be able to grow so much. They have settled in so well in all the schools they are working in and have proved extremely popular with the children.

We are currently advertising for more tutors to enable us to grow even more.

Hopefully we will have more tutors offering drums, piano and singing which are our very popular and rather oversubscribed instruments at the moment.

Don't forget to keep in touch with your tutor and keep an eye on your emails! Let us know if you don't do email and prefer a different form of communication.

### Current tutors:

***Sarah Carr*** – Piano / Singing / Recorders

***Claire Eldred*** – Piano / Music Theory

***Lorraine Rowbotham*** – Saxophone/ Clarinet / Flute / Violin

***\*Adam Southwell*** – Cello / Bass guitar

***Tim Day*** – Guitar / Drums

***\*Claire Everett*** – Piano / Singing

***\*John Welch*** – Ukulele / Guitar / Bass guitar / Piano

***\*Tom Whiston*** – Guitar

***Sandra Long*** – Flute / Clarinet / Saxophone

***\*Steve Moore*** – Piano / Drums / Keyboards

***John McCully*** – Ukulele / Guitar

***Gavin Alleyne*** – DJ

*\*New tutors*

## Payment system

The new payment system seems to be working very well with most people paying by the due date. Don't forget that the payment dates are on the website along with the payment buttons. Please keep an eye on that especially if you are paying in instalments. Remember that lessons will be suspended if payment isn't made. But communication with us can usually rectify any issues.

<http://ascamusic.wix.com/ascamusicramsey>

Find us on Facebook at ASCA music and like us to keep up with information and to see what's happening. You may post photos of your own child but any other children must be sent through me to ensure we have permission.



Looking ahead for our children moving schools at the end of the summer term. If moving to another school within our area a smooth transition should be able to take place. Please let me know if your child will be moving to one of our other schools so that I can arrange their continuing tuition.



We are also on twitter:

ASCA Music@ASCA\_music

## Practise

There are lots of ways to practise and this should be regularly encouraged. It is a discipline that has to be learned and the rewards are great. Your tutor can advise you on how much your child should be practising. Please don't be afraid to ask.



Don't forget it is **YOUR** responsibility to let us know if your child is not going to be in school for their lesson, for whatever reason, even if it is a school trip. If you let us know in good time we can usually rearrange the lesson (as in our terms and conditions on the website). The schools are not responsible for informing us of trips or closures. Please let your tutor know directly where possible.

## Music Exams

We have had yet another clean sweep with our music exams this year. Congratulations to all who have taken exams since our last newsletter. They are:

**Piano:** Prep Test – Jasmin Pingree / Harry Matthews / Lilia Plato / Hollie Butler / Olivia Brown / Nicholas O Hagan

Grade 1: Morgan Matthews

Grade 2: Mia Horton

**Singing:** Prep Test - Izzy Halliday

Grade 1 – Shawna Washington / Erin Scarfe

Grade 2- Charlotte (Lottie) Moss

Grade 5 – Jack Day

**Recorder:** Prep Test – Klara Benz-Straumers / Millie Smith

**Flute:** Grade 4 – Maggie Webb



**Music Theory:** Grade 3 – Eleanor Phipps / Gemma McDonald Grant

**Cello:** Grade 1 – Emily Neville

Good luck to the following people in the next set of exams to be taken soon:

**Prep Test : Piano** – Lily Smith / Amelia Clarke / Alice Luke / Jessica Halls

**Grade 1 : Piano** – Ellen Hodges    **Music Theory** – Logan Allan    **Flute** – Eden Naismith

**Grade 5 : Music Theory** – Eleanor Phipps    **Flute** – Beth Gibson

Not everyone wants to take exams and so if your child has had a musical achievement of any sort please let me know so that I can share it with everyone.

A big shout out to Shawna and Ella from Abbey College who were both invited to sing in London this year. Well done girls!



Well done to Emma Hutchins on getting into the Huntingdon pantomime production again this Christmas. Keep singing Emma!

A huge congratulations to Ashbeach ASCA pianists Bethany Spinks (best newcomer) and Evie Vernal (Key Stage 1 winner) for their awards at the Ashbeach Musician Of The Year competition.

## ASCA Music open event

Our first open event took place back in October at Ramsey Junior School. It was an amazing success with lots of people coming in to try out new instruments, to talk to our tutors and some just to pop by and say hello and show us their support.

ASCA Music would like to thank everyone who attended and to all the staff at Ramsey Juniors, in particular Ben Parnell, for all their help with arrangements and offering to host the event. It was lovely to see so many people coming in to see us and we hope that we can do it again this year.



### ASCA Music Concert

We are already in talks with tutors and the team at the Abbey College as to when the concert will take place this year. Last year was amazing with so many children wanting to perform, however it did make for a very long evening. We have listened to what people said and we will be looking for a way to enable everyone who wants to perform do so without it being such a long night. Watch this space!

We offer music theory lessons too for those who need them. Please contact us for details. These can be short courses.



Please remember the ASCA music door is always open and if you need to get in touch about anything do not hesitate to email me. My office hours are generally all day Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning – that's when I am literally in the office, in between teaching and so will usually receive my messages. But I am contactable in between times too but can't guarantee such an instant response.

Due to very intermittent mobile coverage in this area email is usually the best form of communication.

If you have any issues then there is usually something that can be done about it. Please keep in touch with either your tutor or myself and we can try and sort things out as smoothly as possible.

Have a great term.

Sarah Carr and the team.

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