

Once again, we've had a busy and fulfilling term with top-notch guests coming through our doors. These visits show our children how high they can soar with their musical abilities.

Pupils from Year 6 joined a taster session with our community orchestra, West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra (WNSO). I love Thursday nights when the orchestra meets because past students return to Hawthorn Primary School to see us. Have you ever seen WNSO play? Their concerts in the community are amazing. If you're ever around, it's well worth a watch.

We share all of our hard work in July when the parents of our pupils come to our end-of-term concerts. It is always a positive experience and a lovely celebration.

Earlier this term, Ofsted inspected Hawthorn Primary School. It was a privilege to showcase the work we do through the In Harmony programme. The inspector was impressed with the scope and ambition of the music in school. They said,

"The depth of knowledge and skill in music that pupils acquire is impressive. The joy that this brings to pupils is clear to see."

We'll catch up next term. Have a cracking summer.

Jane Dube
Head Teacher, Hawthorn Primary

Giving it a go



On Thursday 9 May, West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra (WNSO) opened its doors for a taster evening, inviting all Year 6 students from Bridgewater and Hawthorn schools.

Everyone who came is buzzing to continue their musical journey beyond primary school.

It warmed our hearts to see enthusiastic young musicians join forces with our seasoned orchestra members. They not only created beautiful music but also made new connections, sharing the joy of making music together.

Creating music isn't just about notes and rhythms- it's also about having fun. That's exactly what happened at our taster evening. Here's to many more musical adventures ahead. We look forward to you hearing WNSO play in the future.



Welcoming special guests



We love showing people what In Harmony is all about. This term, we gave a warm welcome to special visitors, starting with the Bishop of Newcastle. The Bishop enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour and sat in on a rehearsal of Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra. She was impressed by their skill and dedication, praising how music education positively impacts our young musicians' lives.

The Bishop's encouraging words highlighted the importance of young people having access to opportunities like this. She recognised the hard work of tutors, teaching staff, and supporters. Her visit shone a light on our commitment to fostering a love of music.

Just before half-term, In Harmony was over the moon to welcome none other than Jess Gillam. Jess is a sensational saxophonist who won the BBC Young Musician of the Year title back in 2016 when she was just 17 - talk about talent!

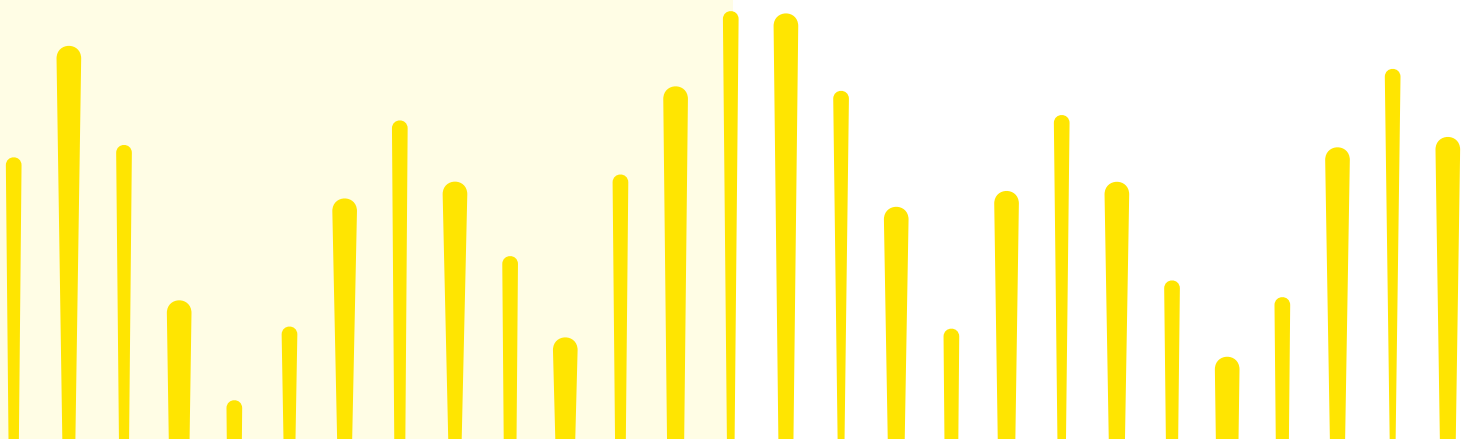
Jess treated the children to some incredible performances at both primary schools. The applause was as loud as thunder as she left us all in awe. She then stayed for a lively Q and A session, where the students impressed her with some thought-provoking questions. It was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Musical discoveries in Year 2

Our Year 2 students at Hawthorn took part in the wind, brass, and double bass try-outs recently. As they grow, they can explore a wider variety of instruments to broaden their musical horizons and discover new interests.

The try-outs were a flurry of enthusiasm and curiosity, with many students keen to try their hand at instruments they'd never played before. Some of our budding musicians even decided to swap their string instruments for a wind or brass instrument, embracing the challenge with open arms. It was brilliant to see their confidence and willingness to step out of their comfort zones.

Looking ahead, we can't wait for the Bridgewater students' trial day in July. What musical path will they choose?



Let us entertain you

Here is a glimpse of our recent In Harmony celebration in the magnificent Sage One at The Glasshouse.

Were you there? We hope you had as much fun as we did.



Harmonious!

In Harmony is a national programme made to inspire. It aims to transform the lives of children in areas where things can be tough using the power of community and orchestral music-making. In our region, The Glasshouse works with Hawthorn Primary and Bridgewater Schools to run In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead. The programme, now over ten years old, shapes the lives of young people.

"He loves his cello. It's his favourite part of school." - Year 1 parent, Bridgewater School

From their very first day in Year 1, children at Hawthorn Primary School and Bridgewater School in Newcastle's West End begin learning an instrument. The benefits might start in the classroom, but they reach far into the local community.

"For those who are not confident during school lessons, they shine during music, and it has helped them in group situations."
- Teacher, Hawthorn Primary School

Music-making skills, confidence, self-esteem, health, wellbeing and resilience improve through making music together as part of daily life. We think that's pretty wonderful. The programme builds a sense of belonging and encourages parents to get involved with the schools - some have been so motivated by their little ones' growth they are now learning instruments alongside them.

"In Harmony improves self-esteem, confidence, life chances and future health. I see the effect on children when I see them at my work – pride, confidence, self-worth, and I see the effect on parents when I see them too."
- Dr Guy Pilkington, local GP

Make it happen

Every year, the children of Hawthorn and Bridgewater Primary schools thrive more and more, thanks to the generosity of our many donors. What you read about in this newsletter simply wouldn't be possible without your support. Thank you.

If you'd like to add your support to this life-changing project, we'd love to hear from you. Any and every contribution makes a difference.

Ways to give

Direct debit

Whether monthly, quarterly or yearly, a regular gift is especially helpful as it lets us plan for the future.

Single gifts

Just call us to make a donation by debit/credit card, and our letterbox is always open to donations by cheque (payable to North Music Trust).



A musical legacy

When you include a gift in your Will to our charity, you will give youngsters magical musical moments for years to come – from learning to play Beethoven to exploring New Orleans Jazz and having a go at composing. If you've made a gift to our charity in your Will or are considering it, we'd love to hear from you so we can keep you connected to the wonderful work happening at In Harmony.

Please contact:

Natalie Heath on 0191 443 5038
or write to her at;
The Glasshouse International Centre for Music,
St Mary's Square, Gateshead. NE8 2JR

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The Glasshouse, St Mary's Square,
Gateshead Quays, Gateshead, NE8 2JR
Box Office: 0191 443 4661 | theglasshouseicm.org



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