



MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER — TERM 1, 2025

 The integration of Mamma Mia! into our curriculum has provided an exciting real-world platform for students to experience collaboration between Music and Drama, understanding how melody, harmony, and lyrics communicate narrative meaning. The enthusiasm in rehearsals and lessons has been contagious — a true reflection of the joy that music brings to our school community.

 This term, the Music Department is alive with rhythm, harmony, and excitement as we prepare for our end-of-term production, Mamma Mia! Students across Key Stage 3 are fully immersed in learning activities that bring the world of musical theatre to life — exploring how music communicates emotion, character, and story.

 Through the joyful and familiar songs of ABBA, our young musicians are discovering how melody, rhythm, and lyrics can be used to tell powerful stories that connect with audiences. Lessons have been designed to help students recognise the structure of pop songs, understand how harmony supports vocal lines, and identify how instrumentation enhances mood in a scene.

 Students have been engaging in singing workshops where they explore ensemble harmony, dynamics, and performance expression. These sessions have not only improved their vocal techniques but also encouraged teamwork and confidence — essential elements in performance learning. Some classes have been composing short melodic phrases inspired by Mamma Mia! scenes, using classroom instruments to experiment with tempo and mood changes.

 We are also linking these lessons to musical analysis, encouraging students to actively listen to songs in the musical and discuss how music reflects emotion and narrative. For example, “Dancing Queen” has inspired rhythmic coordination activities and movement exercises, while “The Winner Takes It All” has been used to explore the emotional power of slower tempos and expressive phrasing.

MS. L. GATHONI.