



Listen Up

Welcome to the first music centre newsletter!

Welcome to the first edition of 'Listen Up', the SIPS Music and Arts termly music centre newsletter where you'll read articles from members about activities they are involved in, other opportunities as well as concerts dates and related information.

It has been wonderful to hear about the progress our musicians have made this term, I'm really looking forward to hearing them performing in our end of term 'Spring Together' concerts and Splinter Studio's Gig Night. These will be the first concerts where our groups have performed together since the pandemic began, so an exciting occasion for all concerned.

Last week it was wonderful to attend the acoustic recital evening at Central Library West Bromwich, hearing superb performances of talented young musicians from Sandwell.

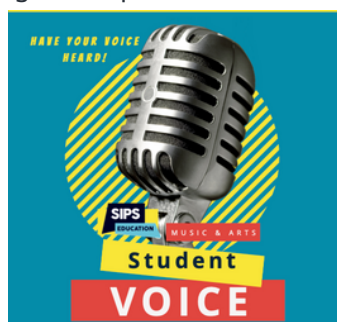
I hope you enjoy this newsletter and take the time to read the updates, articles and future opportunities for all our young musicians. I'm looking forward to the up-and-coming concerts, hearing performances and seeing lots of smiling faces!

(Tanya Derham, Music & Arts Service Manager)

Student Voice

Your voice, opinions & ideas matter to us!
Be part of our SIPS Student Voice Group, leading development & change for music students across Sandwell.

If you're interested let us know by using the QR below.



Listen Up Newsletter Highlights

WELCOME TO LISTEN UP

STUDENT VOICE

RETURNING TO
REHEARSALS

WHAT'S NEW?

CAN YOU HELP THE
'FRIENDS GROUP' AT
MUSIC CENTRE?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Returning to Rehearsals

Returning to music centre has been such a wonderful experience, almost liberating. To be able to engage in a collective effort of communication with friends and strangers alike is truly incredible. That isn't to say it isn't without its differences. Of course adaptations have had to be made since covid making things more distant (literally)



than before. And if it is not the distance between us it is the absence of old friends that have made things more challenging. People have moved away, grown up etcetera. However these circumstances present new challenges and new perspectives rather than impossibilities. I certainly enjoy a challenge and I am up for this one.

(Alanna Slim)

Listen
Up

What's new?

New Saxophone Group

I took the opportunity to join the sax quartet because SIPS' ideas and styles are phenomenal. I have been part of SIPS music groups for 8 years and I have always trusted them. Working as part of a small group is exciting as individually and as group, we can improve getting into to key detail, helping us perform the best sound we can. I also enjoy creating friendships with fellow musicians and enjoy the pieces we play, expanding my techniques, style and overall capabilities on the Saxophone. (Joseph Woodcock)



Soundabout - New Inclusive Choir

A West Midlands Inclusive Choir based in Sandwell, is a Musical community without barriers. Members meet monthly in Cradley Heath and the 'choir' celebrates that everyone has their own way of sharing their voice. It's a musical community of disabled and non-disabled young people aged 25 and younger. Along with their families, sessions are adapted by the highly experienced practitioners to meet the needs of everyone present.



Register at www.soundabout.org.uk/inclusive-choir-west-midlands
(Tonya Shaikh)

Can you help at music centre?

We are so grateful for the ongoing support the 'Friends group' offer the music centre though out the year and it has been great to reintroduce the tuck shop back to Guardian House rehearsals from February half term.

The 'Friends group' are looking for new volunteers to support rehearsal evenings at the tuck shop and stewarding at concerts. If this is something you would be interested in please contact us at music.art@sips.co.uk for further information.

Dates for your diary

Spring term 2022

Monday 28th March - Together in Spring 1 (Concert)
Tuesday 29th March - Together in Spring 2 (Concert)
at Shireland Collegiate Academy.

Find full details and ticket information here;



Tuesday 5th April - 'Gig Night' at Splinter studios

Summer term 2022

Monday 25th April - Rehearsals resume
Monday 2nd May - No rehearsals (Bank holiday)
28th May-4th June - No rehearsals (Half term)
Saturday 9th July - Summer festival day