



### Inset Reports from Warwick, Caversham and Norfolk

Our inset programme for 2013 was very successful with great numbers including possibly the MMA's most well attended inset yet with over fifty delegates at Warwick School. Plans are beginning for the next academic year already - with the first meeting confirmed at Bradfield College, Berkshire.



#### Music Administrators at Warwick School

What a fantastic day we shared on March 1st at Warwick School for our second annual gathering of Music Administrators. There were over 50 delegates making it the largest MMA inset of recent years!

The MMA acknowledges the role of Music Administration as pivotal to the smooth running and efficiency of a music department and as such we are trying to increase our support for those in this position.

We were joined by Michael Orchard of the Music Publisher's Association, who gave a very helpful presentation on the key factors that schools should be aware of. Bob Bishop of Crozier Chorale and Will Keyte and Jonathan Maiden from CJM Software demonstrated their management software for music departments. Keith Ayling discussed the basics of social media and Allisan Durrans of Clifton College explained how a plasma screen has transformed their reception.

It was a hugely positive and informative day and everyone left with great anticipation for the next. The MMA has added a Music Administrator's stream to this year's Conference and is planning the next inset day for the next academic year.

Keith Ayling

"On behalf of the Music School Administrators Forum I would like to offer our sincere appreciation for a superb INSET day at Warwick School on 1 March.

The day included some excellent presentations on Music School software, display information screens, the use of social media in schools and copyright issues, whilst also enabling the assembled administrators to discuss numerous topics of mutual interest in an open forum.

It is very good to note that through the hard work of Keith Ayling, the MMA is now providing such significant support to music school administrators around the country, making membership of the MMA even more worthwhile for everyone involved in music education. I am currently advising all our members to join the MMA and to also consider attending the forthcoming conference in May, as the Music School Administrators 'stream' on 18 May also includes further presentations that will be of great interest.

Thank you to Keith and all his team, and we look forward to visiting Canterbury in May."

Malcolm Goodman MBE  
[www.musicschoolforum.org.uk](http://www.musicschoolforum.org.uk)  
(Music School Manager, Uppingham School)

#### Queen Anne's, Caversham

It was a varied and well attended day, with a mix of Directors of Music, teachers from both Prep and Senior level.

In the morning, Paul Smith introduced us to the VOCES8 Method which he is introducing to schools in the area. The idea behind the Method is to introduce music and movement into everyday life at school in order to support learning by exercising the brain. Paul worked with some of our Year 8 students and the delegates were also involved in some challenging exercises for the brain!

Following a lunchtime concert from Queen Anne's A Level students, we were joined by six Chaplains for a very enlightening discussion about how to innovate and encourage involvement and appreciation of the role of Chapel. This included ways that Music can support and enrich worship, a discussion of hymn repertoire and how to mark events such as Remembrance, Christmas, Lent and Easter. A wide range of styles of worship were represented and this gave plenty of scope for ideas.



## Caversham continued



Frances Novillo from the RSCM joined us to give a useful talk about resources for Chapel and Fr David from Ardingly talked about their new hymn book the traditions of hymn singing and patterns of worship.

Linking repertoire between Prep and Senior was also keenly discussed. Our responsibility to the students to set them on a path in life by presenting high quality worship and music, allowing them to make their own informed decisions about faith, was at the heart of all of the discussions. It was a very useful afternoon and excellent to be able to share experiences and discuss thoughts for the future.

The open forum provided an array of topics for debate, including academic matters, Prep/Senior liaison over curriculum, text books, schemes of work for KS3, the use of technology in Prep and KS3 and Music and the Government's plans for curriculum/baccalaureate. Music Scholarships and whether it is a good idea to review them once awarded according to contribution and performance was our starting point for a discussion which also tackled the issue of HMC and GSA operating in different ways with regards to scholarship awards and whether this should be standardised?

An interesting subject was VMT Appraisal and how it is operated at present. Many schools do not have a system in place. John Padley has recently put together an appraisal system at Queen Anne's which aims to be thorough but not time consuming for either party.

The MMA thank John Padley, Director of Music at Queen Anne's School, for setting up and running another successful inset as well as to all those who contributed to the day.

Sarah Pugh

## Gresham's Prep School



Thirty Three delegates arrived at Gresham's Prep School for this year's regional inset day. A varied and full day began with Chris Milton who gave an inspiring talk about the Britten-Pears Foundation, a heritage organisation. The Red House has almost all of Benjamin Britten's manuscripts. It gives grants to facilitate performances, community and educational projects dear to Britten's heart. This year they are building a purpose built exhibition centre: the biggest single archive of a composer in the world, with everything from bills for groceries upwards! The house is as it was, with Britten's tasteless 60s chairs and wallpaper! The idea is to look at music education today - from KS1 to university students - and put it in its heritage context. The Britten100 website has details of events around the world. For classes there is "New to Britten" - with 10 hours of audio. What's fascinating is not just the stories that Britten set, but the story of his composing. The idea of narrative appeals to children of all ages, eg. Prince of the Pagodas: a 2½ hour ballet.

Ann Barkway then introduced The Friday Afternoons project as a practical session accompanied by Mark Jones/Nathan Waring. The 'Friday Afternoons' website ([www.fridayafternoonsmusic.co.uk](http://www.fridayafternoonsmusic.co.uk)) has scores, mp3 files and lesson plans for all ages. Year 7 pupils from Gresham's Prep sang a number of the songs, then we all sang 'The man from Newington', 'Monkey' & 'Old Abram Brown', dividing into 4 parts. This was great!

Charanga Music (.co.uk) is an online resource for primary teachers, available to hubs. They will roll out materials for Friday Afternoons over the next few months. There are all sorts of events planned for November 22nd, including 800 children at the Cambridge Corn Exchange.

We were treated to a superb lunch, preceded by drinks. Gresham's chapel now has a lovely open space suitable for their "Music and Munch" sessions, open to the local community. We enjoyed listening to excerpts from Britten's St Nicolas, followed by A Hymn to the Virgin, which Britten wrote when he was a pupil at Gresham's. The music was rounded off by the March from Scipio & some cool jazz to tunes by Horace Silver & Miles Davis.

After lunch there were practical sessions including using Sibelius & Logic on Mac computers as well as Music in Foundation & Key Stage 1 and The Trinity Exam Board. An Open Forum followed with conversations including the International Baccalaureate. Towards the end of the day there was a rehearsal for Evensong in Chapel with the school choir, Pre-prandial drinks in the Common Room, followed by a 3-course dinner.

It was wonderful to sing Britten's A Hymn to the Virgin (introtit) and Te Deum in C (anthem) at Evensong with the Gresham's Chapel Choir. We also sang Stanford's Evening Canticles in A. What a shame that Britten did not write any evening canticles! However, it was a great idea to sing the Te Deum as an anthem. Mark Jones rehearsed us expertly in record time and encouraged tenors to join the sopranos in Ken Naylor's own descant to his amazing tune Coe Fen, which has become a bit of an unofficial MMA anthem in recent years. The late Ken Naylor, respected member of the MMA for many years, wrote this descant for an MMA conference at Christ's Hospital a number of years ago and Mark told us that Ken had suggested letting tenors loose on the descant, because of the preponderance of men among the delegates then!

For those of us who were able to stay, the day was rounded off with a superb dinner. Not being a great fan of the A140, I got back on my Brompton and pedalled under the stars to Welbourne, then with sight of the sea to Sheringham for the train home. I am most grateful to Nathan Waring, Director of Music at Gresham's Prep for his invaluable help in organising the day and to Mark Jones, Director of Music at Gresham's and to all the music staff at both schools, for such warm hospitality.

Andrew Leach