

St. Elphin's School



MAY 1989

St. Elphin's School Music Department has two full-time academic members of staff (the Director of Music, Mr Stephen Yeo, and the Assistant Director, Mrs Margaret Johnson) and ten visiting teachers who cover the whole range of instrumental teaching.

All girls take class music until the end of their third year in the Senior School. This takes the form of Music Appreciation, Aural Training, Theory and Singing. After this girls may opt, if they wish, to take Music for G.C.S.E. or later 'A' level.

The School is very strong on the extra-curricular side of music with five choirs, ranging from the Infants through to the Senior Choral Society. The latter takes on many engagements within and outside School, and in the last year has sung in York Minster, Lichfield Cathedral and Stafford; won the overall choral cup in the 1988 Buxton Festival; made a recording; and undertaken a very successful tour of Holland. The School also has a flourishing Orchestra, and various ad hoc groups meet together as required.

During the summer holidays this year (1989) the Music School is to be refurbished at a cost of £50,000. This will provide an up to date Music Department with girls having the benefit of sound proofed practice rooms, a delightful teaching room and a rehearsal/recording studio.

The School is justly proud of its Bösendorfer 'Grand' piano, given by The Friends of St. Elphin's in 1984, which is used by outside bodies for concerts, for School concerts, and is also available to advanced students for practice purposes.

The School follows the syllabuses of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music for Instrumental and Theoretical examinations. In the December 1988 session ten girls out of nineteen obtained Distinctions.

Every year the Music and Drama Departments combine to produce a Musical. Recent past performances have included Oliver, Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, The Boyfriend and The Mikado!! This year's production was Benjamin Britten's Noye's Fludde which involved over 150 girls as well as many members of staff.

The School offers, annually, a Music Scholarship which is worth half fees plus free tuition in two instruments. The examination takes place in February and is open to girls between the ages of 11 and 13. Potential is looked for rather than achievement, but as a rough guide Grade IV/V of the Associated Board would be expected on at least one instrument.

If you are interested in the Scholarship, or any other aspect of Musical life at St. Elphin's, please do contact the Director of Music, Mr Stephen Yeo.