

# MCA TODAY

## THE MUSIC EDITION



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MOMENT?



### YEAR 7

Students in Year 7 are currently choosing between drums, guitar, or singing, where they begin developing fundamental skills in their chosen area. Those studying singing take part in a fun performance activity, where names are selected at random and students perform to their group, helping to build confidence and stage presence.

### YEAR 8 & 9

Year 8 and 9 students continue to develop their skills on their chosen instruments, building on the foundations established in Year 7. Singers also begin working more independently, using individual practice rooms to focus on developing their solo performance skills and confidence.



### YEAR 10

Year 10 students are preparing for their Grade 6 London College of Music and Trinity College London exams in singing, drums, or guitar, developing their performance skills and musical understanding in readiness for assessment.

## YEAR 11

As part of their GCSE coursework, Year 11 students have composed their first original song and are now working on a second. They have also mastered a duet of Fix You, honing their ensemble and collaborative performance skills.



## QUESTION MARK DID YOU KNOW?

Our peripatetic music team provides specialist tuition across vocals and instruments. This year, we have Maye Chamberlain teaching vocals, Joshua Lok Man on drums, and Ella Guardascione on guitar. We were also fortunate to benefit from the expertise of bassist Logan McQuirk before he recently moved to Scotland.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT GEORGIA & ASHTON (YEAR 11)

Year 11 students have been staying after school into the evenings to prepare for their upcoming LCM exams next week.

Between practice sessions, Georgia and Ashton spontaneously performed a duet, showcasing wonderful ensemble skills and a real flair for collaboration. Well done Georgia and Ashton!



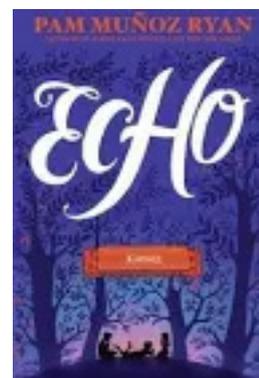
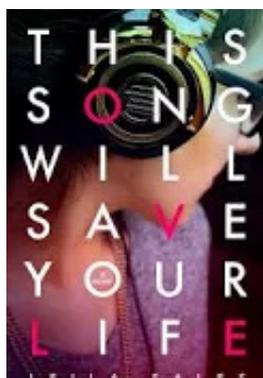
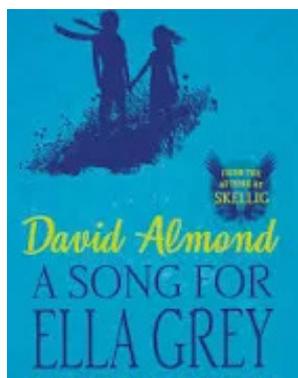
## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ms Chamberlain teaches music at MCA. She is currently reading *The Long Walk* by Stephen King. It's a gripping and unsettling dystopian novel that explores endurance, friendship, and the psychological limits of survival in a deadly walking competition. Ms Chamberlain recommends it!

## BOOKS WE'RE LOVING THIS WEEK

This week, our book recommendations are all music related! They are all available at the MCA Library.

A Song for Ella Grey – David Almond  
This Song Will Save Your Life– Leila Sales  
Echo– Pam Muñoz Ryan



### CELEBRATIONS

This week, a group of Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed a lunchtime concert at the Concert Hall at the Royal Northern College of Music, where they experienced a truly special musical moment.

The programme included the world premiere of *Good Hair, Bad Hair II* by Gloria Xia, meaning our students were among the very first people ever to hear this piece performed live—an exciting and memorable experience.

The concert also featured *Four Last Songs* by Richard Strauss. This inspiring visit gave students a unique insight into both brand-new composition and established repertoire, helping to deepen their appreciation of live music.



### FAMILY FOCUS

One simple but powerful way parents can support their child's musical development at home is by making listening an everyday habit. Setting aside just a few minutes each week to explore music together—whether it's a piece by Ludwig van Beethoven, a song from a favourite film, or something completely new—can make a big difference.

Encourage your child to talk about what they hear: How does the music make them feel? What instruments can they identify? This kind of shared listening not only builds musical understanding but also confidence in expressing ideas. Keeping it relaxed and enjoyable is key—the more music becomes part of normal home life, the more likely students are to develop a lasting interest and appreciation.