



## **Festive Music Celebrations**

**By Mr Page (Director of Music)**

### **Junior School Christmas Concert**

The Junior School concert opened with the Baby Bels' enchanting rendition of *Baby in a Manger*, setting a heartwarming tone for the evening. This was followed by a delightful array of instrumental and vocal solos, showcasing the incredible talent of our younger musicians.

Junior ensembles added their unique flair, with Junior Rock delivering an energetic performance of *Hall of Fame*, the Junior Recorders charming the audience with *Barefoot Boogie*, Toot Club's playful *Rocking Reindeer Crawl*, and Junior Strings' spirited *Saddle the Mule* (a title that required a bit of clarification— 'saddle' being an instruction, and not the name of the mule!).

The second half began with the Junior Choir, whose 70+ members filled the stage and the room with three stunning performances: the tender *Little Blue*, John Rutter's *Star Carol*, and the vibrant *Try Everything* from *Zootopia*.

The evening reached its festive crescendo with the Junior Orchestra, conducted by Helen Parsons, performing a varied repertoire that included *De Colores*, *The Theme from The Muppet Show*, and the beloved classic *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. The finale left everyone in high spirits, perfectly concluding a magical night.

### **Senior School Christmas Concert**

Just two days later, the spotlight shifted to the Senior School musicians, who delivered a truly spectacular performance. The evening opened with Bel Canto's spellbinding rendition of *Carol of the Bells*, directed by Naomi Jones, enveloping the audience with its magical atmosphere. This was followed by a beautifully crafted performance of Elgar's *The Snow*, featuring the choir and two solo violins, and concluded with the lively and uplifting *The Holly and the Ivy*, perfectly rounding off their enchanting set.

The concert featured an impressive array of solo performances and ensemble pieces. The Senior Strings dazzled with a complete Vivaldi concerto, while the Flute Choir charmed with *Little Red Monkey*. The Clarinet Quartet entertained with fun arrangements of *Für Elise*, *Allegro*, and *The Entertainer*. Adding to the festive mood, the Year 9 class got toes tapping with their performance of *Last Christmas*, while the Year 7 Choir's rendition of *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*, accompanied by snare drum, tambourine, and sleigh bells, was a delightful highlight. (It surely wouldn't be Christmas without a generous smattering of sleigh bells throughout the concert!)

The Genesis Choir wowed the audience with their dynamic medley from *Hairspray*, and the Senior Orchestra brought cinematic grandeur to the stage with *Pirates of the Caribbean* and a beautifully rendered *Waltz of the Flowers* by Tchaikovsky. The orchestra's hard work this term was very evident, and along with Bel Canto and the Genesis Choir they will undoubtedly shine again during the Beds Festival in early 2025 and their tour to the Rhineland, Germany, in July 2025.

The evening concluded on a high note with everyone – audience included – joining together for a rousing rendition of 'Walking in a Winter Wonderland', accompanied by the Senior Orchestra, and yes, once again, featuring sleigh bells! It must be Christmas...