

Pupils, parents and staff benefit from new 24/7 community radio station

School goes ‘on air’

Bryanston School, Dorset has launched a new internet-based radio station for pupils, staff and parents. BRYRADIO is the culmination of 6 months of work by pupils and staff to develop a dedicated and comprehensive radio station that provides a blend of entertainment, news, chat, podcasts and live music. Sponsored by the Bryanston Parents' Association, the station broadcasts 24/7 from a state-of-the-art and highly automated studio and is not only available on iPads, laptops and phones and in communal areas around the campus but is also readily accessible anywhere in the world.

Chris Mills, Bryanston's Head of Design and Technology, has overseen the development of BRYRADIO. "The national lockdowns have highlighted the value of effective engagement, interaction and communication for any school community and our new radio station has added an exciting new platform for everyone involved with Bryanston," he said. "The enthusiasm of the pupils for the new radio station has been tremendous and is providing them with a host of new skills, experiences and opportunities. It is also giving a new dimension for parental engagement, as all parents wherever they are around the globe can now always stay fully up to date with all activities at the school – from sports fixtures to live performances and all forms of extracurricular activities."

BRYRADIO is run by a team of pupils across all age groups and is available through a downloadable App, through a smart speaker or from its own dedicated website.

The App also enables listeners to send messages and interact with the studio. The station broadcasts a wide range of music selected by pupils and staff, and the programme schedule includes 6 live shows on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays featuring music, news and gossip.

The weekend shows include live commentaries and reports on important sports matches and a round-up of all sports, concerts, plays and events, and a special Sunday Show looks forward to the week ahead. The pupils have created a large selection of BRYRADIO jingles that are played throughout the day. Pupil-led podcasts featuring discussions and interviews are also broadcast every fortnight.

All new pupils at the school are provided with a taster session in the studio. Those who are keen to become more actively involved are then encouraged and trained to enable them to join the BRYRADIO production team.



Pictured: Pupils, Lola Gupta (left) and Nathalia Johnson, 'on air' in the state-of-the-art BRYRADIO studio at Bryanston School

Massive Messiah

'Warwick – A Singing Town' – the unique, philanthropically-funded project that promotes singing as part of the artistic and cultural post-pandemic renewal of Warwick in partnership with Warwick Independent Schools Foundation, welcomed over 50 enthusiastic

singers to a workshop rehearsal and performance of excerpts from Handel's Messiah in Warwick Hall.

Accompanied by an orchestra made up of professional players and gifted students, the event was conducted by Choral Entrepreneur, Mariana Rosas.

Mariana, who is from Argentina and recently completed the postgraduate Choral conducting course at the University of Birmingham was thrilled by the response of the singers and musicians and said:

'It just shows how important singing is to a community and how much we have missed being able to sing together for the last 18 months. I felt very proud to conduct this lovely group of musicians and was so pleased to be part of a project that can bring people together in such a warm and positive way.'

The aim of 'Warwick – A Singing Town' is for singing to be better understood, promoted and available to residents through free, high-quality singing and choral opportunities in schools, bespoke partnerships with groups who

may benefit from the therapeutic rewards of singing, and sharing information about local singing and choral opportunities for all Warwick residents.

Singing has been shown to stimulate multiple areas in the brain such as the motor, visual and auditory cortexes, supporting learning, development memory and emotional regulation. Jeremy Dibb, Research & Delivery lead for 'Warwick- a Singing Town' explained, 'Recent neuroscience research shows that music and musical activity help release the 'feel-good' chemicals, serotonin and dopamine. Singing is an activity that enhances both physical and mental health – a very recent and relevant example is the use of singing techniques to support patients suffering with long-term breathing issues from long COVID.'



www.warwicksingingtown.co.uk