

Music

The secondary music department is responsible not only for the teaching of the subject from year seven right up to the Upper 6th but also instrumental lessons and all of the extensive extra-curricular musical activity that takes place throughout the year.

Last year was a busy but an enjoyable year at NES. In November the Wind Ensemble performed at the annual prize giving and was enjoyed by all who heard it. This ensemble was made up of more experienced players, some who had been playing for several years and had given the school a great deal of service over that time. Unfortunately several of them left us this year but we all wish them every success for the future and hope they will find time to continue their musical activities.

In December was the Winter concert which involved several musical groups and choirs. The Lower School Choir, Upper School Choir, Concert Band, a

small ensemble, the Wind Ensemble and soloists all performed with great success to an appreciative audience.

More recently was the superb production in the Mousetrap Theatre of the musical 'Oklahoma'. This was very enjoyable and memorable and a credit to all who took part in any way.

In April was the annual Gala Concert involving not only the groups mentioned already but one or two new faces. Again all the performers gave excellent performances reflecting the hours of practice that has to be done before a venture of this kind can be successful. Many congratulations to everyone who took part.

Recently a beginner band has been formed for the less experienced players and new concert band has also been formed involving twenty three students from year eight to the upper sixth.

As well as teaching class music all the music teachers at NES give instrumental lessons to encourage younger students to take up an instrument and to join one of the several instrumental groups already mentioned.

Students are allowed to start in year six but many are in the secondary department from all years up to year eleven. This is proving to be a great success and at the moment over fifty students are taking advantage of this scheme. This bodes very well for the future of music in the school.