



WEST OF ENGLAND MUSIC AND ARTS

West of England Young Musicians - Residential 2025 Monmouth

Dear Parents, Carers and Musicians,

I'm delighted to be able to announce our 2025 residential course. This will take place once again at Haberdashers' Monmouth School (previously Monmouth school for Girls) as we always enjoy their excellent accommodation, food and facilities. Alongside our WEMA staff, this year our guest professional conductor will be Patrick Bailey. For more information about Patrick's professional conducting, composing and presenting life go to:

<https://bsolive.com/people/patrick-bailey>. Patrick is also highly experienced at working with Youth and University Ensembles. He is Head of Conducting at the London College of Music & Media where he directs the Orchestra and Composer's Ensemble. He is the Music Director of the City University Symphony Orchestra and the Hertfordshire Schools Symphony Orchestra.

To apply for this residential course, instrumentalists will need to be a **minimum of grade 5 standard** and in **Year 7 to Year 13** or be in their **first year at university/work**. Singers do not need to be of grade 5 standard but should enjoy singing and be keen to sing in a group with others.

Exact ensembles will depend on numbers and the instrumentalists who apply, but we plan to run a Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra, Choirs and chamber groups.

2025 Dates:

Sunday 13th July – 1 day course at Little Stoke Primary School, BS34 6HY (this is 1 mile away from Parkway Station for who wish to travel by train, there are regular buses from Parkway to Little Stoke)

Saturday 19th July – 1 day course at Little Stoke Primary School, BS34 6HY

23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th July – 5 full days/4nights Residential Course at Monmouthshire School for Girls

27th July – **early evening concert** at Haberdashers' Monmouth School for family and friends

Fee

The cost for the entire course will be a **£550**. We have managed to keep the cost the same as last year and added an additional night. The concert will be in Monmouth this time and we ask for parents to take students home after the concert. We will invoice you a £75 deposit when you sign up, then 3 payments. £175 will be invoiced at the end of February, £150 at the end of March and £150 at the end of April. If you are entitled to **Pupil Premium or are on a low income** please let us know in confidence as we may be able to assist with the cost.

The fee includes

- 2 days of rehearsals at Little Stoke
- residential course at 'Haberdashers' Monmouth School which includes coach transport to Monmouth ONLY, full board accommodation, professional tuition and all activities. **Parents will need to transport their student home after the concert.**
- concert for family and friends at Haberdashers' Monmouth School (no ticket required)

Facilities

Haberdashers' Monmouth School has wonderful facilities for us to use for our rehearsals during the residential course. There are also sports facilities that we can make use of during leisure time such as a swimming pool, tennis courts, astro turf pitch and sports hall. There is a lovely dining hall with excellent food including three cooked meals each day prepared fresh on site. The accommodation will be over 2 or 3 boarding houses (depending on numbers). There is a selection of individual, paired and small group rooms. Some rooms have ensuite facilities and all rooms have access to ample good bathroom facilities. There are also several large common rooms with sofas, large screen TVs and kitchen facilities for making drinks and snacks.

Typical day on the residential

8am Breakfast

9am – 10.30am Rehearsals

10.30am – 11.00am Break

11am-12.30pm Rehearsals

12.45pm-1.45pm Lunch

2pm – 3.30pm Swimming or Sports Activities or Shopping

3.45pm – 5.15pm Rehearsals

5.30pm – 7pm – Dinner

7.15pm – 8.15pm Rehearsals

8.30pm – 9.45pm Social Activity (such as quiz night, games evening etc)

To sign up please go to:

<https://wema.org.uk/register>

You will need to click on REGISTER HERE for Music Centres, Choirs and Orchestra and select West of England Music and Arts from the drop down menu, then the ensemble is West of England Youth Music Residential 2025

The closing date for entries is Monday 20th January. Please email me directly if applying late to check availability. Don't forget to ask for assistance with fees if financial reasons would stop you from being able to attend this course including getting to the concert in Monmouth and collecting your child.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly: Alice.Bodiley@wema.org.uk

Best wishes

Alice Bodiley

Programme Leader: Groups and Courses