

## 'WOODCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL – 2015 FINALIST IN THE MUSIC TEACHER AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE'

Local school, Woodcroft Primary, has been nominated for the 2015 Music Teacher Awards for Excellence, Best Music Department category. Woodcroft is one of only 5 schools nationally, and the sole maintained primary school, to be shortlisted for this prestigious award.



Now in their third year, the Music Teacher Awards celebrate excellence in the field of music education, with award categories ranging from Best Music Education Product to the Lifetime Achievement Award, for a seminal contribution to music education.

The winner of each category will be announced at a **gala evening on 12 March 2015**, the first day of Music Education Expo 2015, at The Grange St Paul's Hotel in central London. The evening will feature a solo piano performance from Yamaha scholar and Guildhall School of Music student Jonathan Morris, incidental music from students at Leighton Park School, and entertainment from multi-award-winning vocal group Voces 8. The evening will be presented by Classic FM DJ Margherita Taylor. The winners will be chosen by our expert panel of judges, save for the Best Classical Music Education Initiative, which will be chosen by a public vote on the Classic FM website, and the Music Teacher Magazine Editors' Award, which will be chosen by Thomas Lydon, editor of Music Teacher magazine.

**Woodcroft** is very quickly gaining a reputation for outstanding Arts and Music education. It is an Artsmark Gold school, an accredited Arts Award Assessment Centre and regularly participates in prominent local and national performances. The school is also a frequent host for events organised by the Barnet Music Hub in partnership with BEAT (Barnet Education Arts Trust).

Woodcroft has developed an exciting Arts and Music programme titled AIM@Arts. This was identified by Ofsted in a recent inspection as providing excellent enrichment opportunities.

*'The wide ranging curriculum is enhanced by an extremely varied and well attended enrichment programme. An aspirational programme of study called 'AIM@' supplements the curriculum...and inspires pupils to do their very best.'* **Ofsted Report Jan 2015**

**Ian Harrison, Education and Skills Director, The London Borough of Barnet, commented**

*The principles and practice of 'inspiration and aspiration' reflected in your pioneering 'AIM@' curriculum encapsulates your motto 'Together Towards Success'... the distinctive nature of this enhanced curriculum is a real strength of the school. (Ian Harrison, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015)*

**Craig Tallon, Headteacher at Woodcroft Primary School said:**

*'It was my aim as Headteacher to bring the highest quality music and arts education and facilities to the Woodcroft community. Over the past three years we have developed our choirs, introduced instrumental tuition, implemented state of the art stage and performance facilities, created an exciting range of extra-curricular clubs and participated in national events at world class venues. With the help of dedicated staff, through music and the Arts we are raising the confidence and self-esteem of all pupils so they can benefit from the highest aspirations.'*

**Caitlin Sherring, Music Specialist at Woodcroft Primary School, commented**

*'The creation of a quality instrumental and vocal programme providing every pupil with the opportunity to engage in an outstanding music education is a priority at Woodcroft. Pupils now have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of musical learning experiences in addition to weekly curriculum music provided by a specialist teacher. The dedication from all the music staff, and that of our young musicians, has resulted in the formation of the school's first ever Orchestra – a huge achievement for a programme still in its infancy. We are delighted that this commitment and the rapid growth of our Music Department has been recognised by the Music Teacher Awards for Excellence.'*

To find out more about Woodcroft and its music curriculum please visit

<http://www.woodcroft.barnet.sch.uk/>

To find out more about **Music Awards** please see the accompanying press information sheet or visit <http://www.musiceducationexpo.co.uk/awards/>

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