



6 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Garsington Opera in-school workshop (28 April 2026) and theatre trip (15 July 2026): Year 9 Music GCSE students

As part of enrichment for GCSE Music students, we have arranged for the creative team from Garsington Opera Company to work with students to explore musical and dramatic ideas from Verdi's *La Traviata*. This is an exciting and rare opportunity to work with leading creatives in the world of opera, not to be missed. The opportunity has two components:

Creative workshop at Borlase on 28 April 2026, facilitated by a director, composer, and a professional opera singer from Garsington Opera. The session includes musical warm ups and team building creative activities, before the whole group explores the music and story of the opera. Students will devise their own words and music based on a theme of the piece.

Students should arrive in school in their school uniform. As they will be missing lessons for the day, they are expected to contact their class teacher for any missed class or homework instructions. They will follow normal school breaks and eating arrangements.

Performance of Verdi's *La Traviata* on 15 July 2026 at the Wormsley estate, near Stokenchurch.

Students will travel by coach to Garsington Opera at the Wormsley estate, meeting at the Archway at 3:30pm and leaving the Spinfield Lane Layby by 3:45pm. Students may wear their own clothes, including a warm jumper or jacket for the evening, as the Theatre is partially outside.

There will be an opportunity for a snack on arrival, and a long interval for a picnic supper during the performance. Students should bring a packed picnic and drinks for themselves. Please note, there are no opportunities to purchase food or drinks at the venue.

The opera is estimated to finish by 9pm, with a return to Borlase (Spinfield Layby) by 10pm. I will confirm details closer to the time.

The April workshop component is free to students. **The cost of the Theatre trip in July is £22** (including ticket, coach transport and [insurance](#)). If you wish for your child to attend, please log onto [ParentPay](#) using your username and password to pay **by Wednesday 25 March**. If you need a copy of your activation details or are unable to access Parentpay, please email parentpay@swbgs.com.

In line with the school's charging policy, parents are reminded that school charity funds exist to assist families whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent their child from participating. Application must be made in writing to the Deputy Head, Mrs Louise Walder, outlining the reasons why support is required, as soon as possible and latest by the deadline below.

This is a Category B trip, as defined by the school's Trips and Visits policy. As such, payment for the trip on ParentPay is taken as confirmation of consent for your child to attend and that the contact and medical details that the school has on record for you are up-to-date and correct. Students who

require medication such as EpiPens or inhalers must carry their own emergency medication with them at all times on trips

If you have any questions, please email me via parents@swbgs.com.

Yours faithfully

Dr B Parsons
Assistant Headteacher
Teacher of Music