



THE JUILLIARD – NORD ANGLIA PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMME

Media Interview with Principal Mr. Cooklin and Director of Music Miss Rowan

1. Can you tell me more info about the curriculum itself?

We are delighted that we will be the first school in Hong Kong to collaborate with The Juilliard School, the world-renowned performing arts conservatory based in New York. Juilliard School has recently been ranked the world's best university for the study of performing arts, according to QS World University Rankings, and we share this vision for the value of the performing arts to society.

The Juilliard – Nord Anglia Performing Arts Programme is an embedded arts curriculum developed by specialists from Juilliard, along with continued support from, and engagement with, Juilliard alumni and affiliated artists. It has been designed to give children a deep engagement with music, dance and drama and to equip our pupils with the skills needed to excel in their future careers. It enriches the high-quality teaching and learning offer in our school with the artistic values, traditions and expertise of Juilliard.

2. What are the benefits for the child?

The curriculum has been designed for all students, not just those who are serious about learning an instrument or musical performance. It aims to nurture cultural literacy and develop skills in students such as discipline, creativity and confidence that will enable them to succeed anywhere in the world once they have left school.

The curriculum begins with music comprising twelve core categories of music which will open doors to different cultures, genres and historical periods. Activities developed by Juilliard will help children understand the language of music and develop creative skills such as improvisation and composition.

Curriculum specialists, teaching artists and touring performers will visit our school on a regular basis, giving pupils a unique opportunity to learn and build relationships with practising musicians.

With music as a creative key, pupils will develop skills like critical thinking, resilience, risk-taking and discipline, which he or she can use in their learning in every subject. They will develop cultural literacy, broadening their understanding of cultural and social history, which will give them a global perspective.

3. Is it a theory-based curriculum?

The curriculum is engaging and age-specific. Interactive activities encourage pupils to engage with the works and key concepts while developing connections between the pieces as well as other subjects. It is designed so that it becomes a catalyst for learning new skills.

Pupils will study the twelve core categories throughout their time at school. Each category is based on an iconic work ranging from a traditional Chinese pipa solo, *Ambush from Ten Sides*, to *Beethoven's Fifth Symphony*.



Our Music faculty will use the Juilliard Creative Classroom, an online resource of teaching materials, recordings and videos that they can incorporate into their lessons to support further engagement with music.

4. What will the students be playing? (Instruments and pieces)

Students will be performing on a wide variety of instruments including piano, violin, flute, trombone, harp, and guzheng. Pieces will include Haydn's Allegro Moderato from Concerto in G on violin, Chopin's Etude Op. 10, No.3 on piano, and 'Grassland Scenery' by Sun Wen Yan on guzheng amongst others.

Our two school choirs will be performing too. They will be singing 'Last-minute Calypso', 'Any Dream Will Do' and 'Summer' by Lin Marsh, 'Let's Go Fly A Kite' by Richard Sherman, and 'I am a Small Part of the World' by Sally Albrecht and Jay Althouse. In addition our Year 5 to 8 students will be performing "They Can't Take That Away From Me" by George and Ira Gershwin.

5. Which years will take part?

Pupils from each year group will be participating – from our youngest (Year 1 who are 5 years old) to our Secondary students in Year 8 (13 years old). In total, over 200 children will be performing on the night together with some of our talented parents too! It is a fabulous opportunity to bring together our community through music.

6. Who will be teaching it?

As Curriculum Fellow and Director of Music, myself and my department have been teaching the children for the past few months in preparation for this amazing concert, using music lessons during the day as well as extra curricular classes. We have a fabulous team of peripatetic music teachers who deliver a broad range of instrumental lessons in school, which has also contributed greatly.

As for The Juilliard - Nord Anglia Performing Arts Programme Curriculum, since the beginning of the year having set up a Juilliard Music Lab with a suite of electric pianos, we have already started using elements of the philosophy behind the curriculum to teach our pupils. The keyboard acts as an entry point for music theory and we believe that there is no better way for pupils to understand musical concepts than from first-hand experience. So from the age of five, every child will use the keyboard to explore the fundamentals of music and notation through active participation. Next academic year, we will be engaging with a wide variety of core works, using an exciting Juilliard curated bank of activities and resources with activities designed to foster creativity, curiosity, and cultural literacy amongst other key elements. We will also receive visits from Juilliard Alumni, who will come into school to run workshops, perform to students and inspire them with a phenomenal level of musicianship.

Last year, three of our students joined the Nord Anglia Education's Global Orchestra which brought together 82 students from our schools around the world in New York. They attended performing arts workshops at The Juilliard School and the trip enabled students to collaborate with peers, build new friendships and be exposed to a wide range of musical experience. It was a once-in-a-life opportunity



culminating in an incredible concert performance at the DiMenna Center.

This year, we are also launching a Summer Performing Arts with Juilliard. The first two-week programme will be held in Switzerland from 9 – 22 July at the Nord Anglia Education school College du Lemans campus, and will include drama, dance, voice and instrumental tuition. It will be open to students aged 10 – 18 from all nationalities and performers of all abilities, as well as non-Nord Anglia school students.