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Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Young Soloist of the Year 2021

I am very pleased to invite you to our first musical event of the academic year, St Martin's Young Soloist of the Year Competition, which will take place on Wednesday 6 October in the South Hall at 6pm.

There will be two categories, Junior and Senior, and two representatives per house for each category will be required. We expect lots of interest from performers and as such a random draw will take place to determine participants. Therefore, should your son or daughter wish to participate, they should see me in the Performing Arts office as soon as possible so that they can be included in this draw. I will contact successful students to confirm their participation next week.

I am very pleased that Mr David Pickthall MBE has once again accepted my invitation to return as our guest adjudicator for the event. With an extensive musical CV, David's knowledge, advice, support and humour has proved invaluable to our talented musicians over the past couple of years, and I have no doubt that this year will be the same.

Audience members will not be required to wear face coverings, however you may of course wear them should you feel more comfortable doing so. We will continue to offer hand sanitiser in the hall to ensure good levels of hygiene, and the hall will be thoroughly ventilated throughout the event. Current governmental guidelines do not require us to distance our audience, however should you have any concerns regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me. Audience members are advised to take a lateral flow test in advance of the event although this is not compulsory, and we politely ask that anyone with symptoms of Covid-19 does not attend.

Tickets, priced at £6 for adults and £4 for students, are available to book via e-mail, and requests should be sent to our Performing Arts Technician and Administrator, Mr Scates at iscates@st-martins.essex.sch.uk. All money should be given on the door, and tickets will also be available here on the night. This is a fund-raising event, and all proceeds will be donated to the school.

Thank you very much in advance for your support and encouragement, and I do hope to see you at the event. Should you have any queries, I can be contacted at school on 01277 238353 or mharris@st-martins.essex.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Harris *Head of Music*

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