

22nd January 2018

Telephone 01432 363522

Dear Parent

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schoolsec@herefordcs.com

**BBC 1 Songs of Praise 'Young Choir of the Year' Competition 2018**

I am delighted to inform you that the Chamber Choir have been successful in reaching the televised semi-finals of the BBC 1 Songs of Praise 'Young Choir of the Year' competition. Their CD application was considered amongst hundreds so it is a great achievement to reach the semi-finals.

The competition will be recorded on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Pontio Arts Centre, Bangor, North Wales and broadcast on BBC 1 later in the year. The choirs involved will perform a hymn for the semi-finals and three of those choirs will then be invited to perform an 'inspirational song' for the finals. If the choir are lucky enough to progress to the finals, the filming will be on the same day. Either way, it will be an exciting day and the choir should be very proud of themselves for reaching this stage in such a prestigious competition.

As you can imagine, there is much to organise between now and then. I have attached a letter from the producer with important details about the filming and a form requesting permission for your child to participate. Please do read this carefully and return the form to the School Office as soon as possible and no later than Friday 25th January. They also need to know how many spectator tickets we require. There is no limit on the amount we can request although they do not guarantee to meet this request and will confirm in due course. They ask us to try to be accurate with numbers to avoid having empty seats in the concert hall when filming.

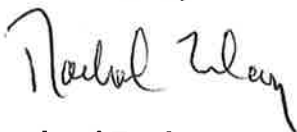
The children may be filmed arriving on the coach and for this reason they must all travel together to North Wales. (The cost of travel will be met by the BBC). Timings have not yet been confirmed but filming will take place during the daytime rather than the evening. (Pupils will be permitted to travel home with parents if preferred.)

**Please note that we will need to have a few extra rehearsals in preparation for this event.**

I would appreciate it if every effort could be made to get the children to school early on the following days yet do understand that it may not be possible in every case:

- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 8.00am
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 8.00am
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 8.00am
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 8.00am

Yours sincerely



**Rachael Toolan**  
**Head of Music**



22nd January 2018

Dear Parent / Guardian

As you may be aware by now your child's choir has reached the semi-final of the BBC 1 Songs of Praise Young Choir of the Year Competition 2018. Songs of Praise is a long running Christian music programme and in order to ensure the success of the programme we feel it is very important to have the support of parents and carers.

The Junior section semi-finals and final will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Pontio Arts Centre, Bangor, North Wales. We will be recording three programmes for BBC 1 over the weekend, which will be broadcast later in the year. We will be filming the choirs both backstage and during the performances.

We may also visit your child's choir prior to the event on a date arranged with the choir leader/school teachers. A small production team will film the choir rehearsing, and for school choirs, also general shots of the school. They may ask some children questions too. Choir leaders/school teachers, including head teachers (for school choirs) will be made aware of the exact filming intentions prior to the shoot. Avanti Media/Nine Lives are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and have a Child Protection Policy to support staff.

For the recordings in Bangor, Songs of Praise has to apply to the local education authority, in which each child lives, for a licence allowing them to perform. Please note this is an LEA requirement not a production request. The LEA often requires two passport photos and a letter from the head teacher of the school they attend during the week. In some cases the LEA also requires a doctor's certificate stating that the child is fit to take part. There is usually a charge for this, which families would have to pay for. The Songs of Praise team will inform the choir leaders/teachers in advance should the LEA request any of the above.

We want to start the process of approaching the LEAs as soon as possible and for this we need the choir leaders/schools to send us the name, address and date of birth of your child.

Can you please return the slip below to your choir leader/school, giving permission for your child to take part in the Songs of Praise television programmes on the above dates and for the choir leader/school to send us your child's details?

The choir leaders/schools will need to return the slips by the **31st January 2018 at the latest.**

Yours sincerely

Lauren Hodgkinson  
Production Coordinator

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I do / do not give permission for my child to take part in the BBC1 Songs of Praise Young Choir of the Year Competition. I agree to the school giving the Songs of Praise office my child's address and date of birth.

Name of Child .....

Name of Choir .....

Signed Parent /Guardian .....

I would like \_\_\_\_ audience tickets to watch the filming. (Requests will be confirmed by the BBC in due course)