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Junior Band AGM Report 2010

2010 was another very successful year for the Junior Band. I was delighted with the way the year developed and there were several highlights throughout...

During the early part of last year the Junior Band combined with the Beginners in order to perform at the National Youth Brass Band Championships. After a term of very hard work the performance that the bands produced was fantastic and received many positive comments both on the day and in the aftermath. This success has prompted us to enter the competition again; the difference this year will be the Junior Band entering the junior section in their own right and the Beginners entering the training section.

The Junior Band performed in 10 concerts last year; concerts in combination with the Youth and Beginners have had a very positive vibe with players giving each other lots of support. The events that the Junior Band performed at alone were a credit to the organisation; in particular the standard of playing over the Christmas period by the Junior Band made me immensely proud.

Players have moved onwards and upwards to the Youth Band and I have been pleased to hear that the work we are doing in the juniors has prepared them well for the demands of the higher level. Sadly a small number of players have left the organisation completely at junior level; in almost all cases these have been pupils in transition between primary and secondary school. This is something I will be looking at supporting more effectively over the next 12 months.

In the coming year I hope that the band will continue to develop as they have done over the past 12 months. There are currently 32 members in the Junior Band yet numbers playing larger instruments are worryingly low; this is something I will be looking to address in consultation with the Beginner Band team.

All Junior Band members have a calendar of events and rehearsals in the front of their folder, email updates and the website provide additional information and I'm pleased that in the vast majority of cases I am now made aware when players cannot attend; as ever the more notice I have the easier it is to plan ahead.

I was delighted that the committee allowed me to forge new partnerships with local primary schools, the local music authority and with our local MP. In July we hosted 'Brass Celebration 2010'; a concert featuring local Wider Opportunities programmes. The concert was a big success and resulted in around 20 new members joining the beginners. It is hoped the event can be repeated in 2011.

The Website received over 7,500 hits during 2010; this has been greatly helped by the short videos produced by Macclesfield College students who visited several times and created bespoke promotional videos and materials

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to us free of charge. I am delighted that I receive regular enquiries from parents of young brass players asking to join the organisation at all levels as a result of visiting the website.

Finally; I would like to thank Tom Hancock and Derek Gardener for their help as tutors, Katie Stubbs for her administrative skills, Jane Stubbs and all of the committee who work tirelessly, the Beginner Band team who produce an excellent foundation for me to work with and Nigel Birch for his musical leadership of the organisation. Finally thank you to all players, parents, supporters etc. for their hard work and support.

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