

## Official Opening of “The Matthewson Music Centre” at Whitchurch High School

Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup> 2009

It was a great pleasure to welcome over sixty guests, including governors, former members of staff and many of the contractors who had been involved in the building of our wonderful new facility, to school for the official opening of the new Music Centre.

As the guests gathered in the Tower Block Hall they were entertained by Rachel Hanson (piano) and a string ensemble featuring Iwan Graff, Elizabeth Worby and Morven Graham (violins) and Rhona Graham (cello).

The guests were welcomed by Mr Eric Phillips (Head of Music) who expressed his particular delight that two former Heads of Music, Mrs Meudwen Davies and Mr Tony Josty, were present to witness this very special occasion. Mr Phillips also thanked the former Headteacher, Mr Gareth Matthewson OBE, Mr Steve Williams, Buildings and Estates Manager, and Paul and Bob Matthews for their tremendous efforts during the development and building of this fantastic new facility. The Music Centre is built to the highest specification with magnificent musical designs in the floor, fabulous slate signs on the doors which were engraved by Mr Chris Harris (Head of DT) and beautiful framed national awards and programmes, organised by Mrs Gail Shepherd (Receptionist).

Following a tour of the building, the guests congregated in the Britten Room, named after the English composer Benjamin Britten who had given a concert at school in 1950, where a range of excellent refreshments were provided by Mrs Kath Jones and her team. The Chamber Choir directed by Mrs Julie Thorne with soloist Giorgia Warsama performed before the speeches by Mrs Joyce Crandon (Chair of Governors), Mr Huw Jones-Williams (Headteacher) and Mr Matthewson, who then performed the official opening by unveiling a plaque.

A toast to “The Matthewson Music Centre” was followed by performances on the flute by Jack Welch, who played the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of the Poulenc Flute Sonata as a tribute to the French composer who had given a concert at school in 1947, and by soprano Sarah Gilford, who sang Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man from Showboat and I Could Have Danced All Night from My Fair Lady – a fitting end to the proceedings.

Mr Phillips thanked the guests for attending the opening of this excellent facility which will greatly enhance the future of high quality music making at Whitchurch High School.

Mr Eric Phillips  
Head of Music