

June 2008

Dear Parents, Students and Staff

**ST AIDAN'S PERFORMS 'THE ARMED MAN'**

Our school is, you will be aware, unique in many ways and we all benefit from the great things which St Aidan's is capable of achieving in so many areas, thanks to our highly enthusiastic students, hugely supportive parents and dedicated staff. It has been amongst my plans since I came to St Aidan's five years ago to combine all three of these constituent parts of the St Aidan's community in a large scale musical venture. It is now time for that idea to come to fruition and I hope you will catch the vision!

In late February we hope to put on a performance of Karl Jenkins, "The Armed Man: a Mass for Peace", a large scale work for choir and orchestra, now very popular, which deals with the descent into and the consequences of war. It was commissioned for the millennium by the Royal Armouries and is dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo war, setting sacred and secular texts within the framework of the Christian Mass. It has added poignancy in that the CD recording of the work was released on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2001. It is my hope that we will be able to raise a choir and orchestra of parents, St Aidan's staff, our peripatetic music staff and students of all ages whether or not they are currently members of a school ensemble. The choir parts are very easily learned and not overly complicated, so it is quite possible for those with little or no choral experience to take part.

There will be a series of weeknight rehearsals leading up to this performance, the date for which will be released when plans become clear. It is sufficient at this stage simply to register your interest via the attached form which should be returned to the school office before the end of July 2008. You may offer yourself as a singer or instrumentalist, if you are happy to do either please indicate.

Yours sincerely

C M Pallant  
Director of Music

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**ST AIDAN'S PERFORMS 'THE ARMED MAN'**

Please return this form to the school office to express your interest in taking part in the "Armed Man".

Name(s):.....

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Connection with St Aidan's:.....

Instrument:.....

Voice:.....

Preferred Week Night(s) for rehearsals: (please indicate)

Mon                  Tues                  Wed                  Thurs                  Fri                  Mixture