

Absence Approval Request: Wimbledon Tennis Championships

Merton Youth Concert Band – Thur 9 July 2026

Dear Headteacher/Principal,

MYJO at Wimbledon Championships 2026

Merton Music Foundation is delighted to have been invited to perform at the Championships again this year. This wonderful opportunity involves the young people performing for the crowds at the event before the tennis starts at 1pm. We know that it is a highlight of a young musician's career – having had the privilege of presenting our bands for over 25 years. A pupil from your school is due to perform with our flagship senior concert band, MYCB, which has been invited to play on Thursday 9th July.

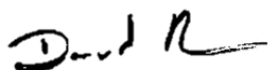
In accordance with *Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014* and *Working Together to Improve School Attendance (2024)*, I am writing to request your permission for a pupil to be absent from your establishment to take part in a regulated performance under a Body of Persons Approval (BOPA), which has been issued by the Secretary of State for Education. During this time, they will be supervised by suitably vetted / DBS checked adults in age-appropriate ratios of no more than 1:12 under the supervision of at least one Designated Safeguarding Lead and first aid staff. All statutory conditions relating to time on site, breaks and pupil supervision will be met in accordance with the BOPA and with due regard to relevant legislation, including Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025.

Please Authorise Absence

I would be grateful if you would confirm with the child's parent/guardian that they can attend this event and that you will authorise their absence on Thursday 9 March 2026. In accordance with guidance, we are requesting that you do so using absence code 'C1' (absence for a regulated performance or employment abroad), however as headteacher you can of course use your discretion regarding which code is to be used.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information by email david.rees@mmf.org.uk or on 020 8640 5446. Thank you in advance for your support.

With best wishes,



David Rees
Chief Executive