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8th September 2025

O Duo percussion performance at Alnwick Playhouse – Friday 19th September

Dear parents/ carers,

Through Alnwick Music Society's Outreach and Education work, we're delighted to say that our school has been invited to have our Year 5 and 6 pupils watch a performance by a percussion group called O Duo at Alnwick Playhouse on the morning of Friday 19th September, which we have eagerly accepted.

O Duo are a duet of percussion players who have had great success over recent years, including featuring at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival among many other performances. This not only gives the children a great experience of live music but also will inspire and give insight to our own music education, as we will be using more of our own instruments at school during this year. A review of O Duo is shown below:

For two decades O Duo have been performing worldwide, entertaining and educating audiences of all ages. The duo was formed in 2001 by Owen Gunnell and Oliver Cox, whilst studying at the Royal College of Music. Then in 2018 Toby Kearney (another RCM graduate) replaced Oliver, joining Owen to continue the musical journey.

The Duo made their Edinburgh Fringe Festival debut with their show, 'Bongo Fury', which they played over 25 times to sell-out crowds and critical acclaim.

Since then, O Duo has gone from strength to strength, commissioning many new works and inspiring countless children (and adults!) around the world with their virtuosic performances, laid-back presentation and passion for both percussion and music in general.

"Phenomenal artistry ... Brimming with style and panache." Daily Telegraph

Alnwick Music Society have kindly sought and provided funding for both the tickets and transport and so there is no cost for this event. The children will arrive to school at normal time and will travel back and forth to the Alnwick Playhouse on organised minibuses with myself and another designated adult. After the performance, we will return to school by the end of the morning and so will be having lunch as usual.

We're very much looking forward to what will be a great performance. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything that you feel you would need to discuss with me regarding this trip.

Thank you for your continued support,
Mr Charlton – Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs Belinda Athey

