

CHORAL SINGING - SOUND AND PRESENTATION

Pitch – singing the correct notes in a music scale and tune

Intonation – each choir member singing and tuning into the correct pitch of a note so that a unified note results

Vowels – each student singing the same round shaped vowel sound, working on a vertical shape with a dropped jaw.

Always sing through each vowel, never cut it short

Consonants – clear, crisp, quick consonants, particularly at the beginning and end of a word

Tone – sound quality

- a clear, bright, focussed, non-breathy head voice
- a light chest voice is acceptable for lower notes, bringing the head voice down in preferable

Resonance – a yawning feeling, to make space in your head, a raised soft palate

Articulation – well enunciated words, with very distinct and sometimes over pronounced diction

Breathing – controlled from the lower chest and diaphragm, in the middle of long words, not mid-phrase

Blend – unified sound, no individual voices standing out

- entries and endings of words, as well as cut offs are to be exactly together
- expect a unified tone
- expect exact rhythm
- dynamics sung as indicated, with a unified sound

Dynamics – the ability to sing expression from *pp* (very soft) to *ff* (very loud)

- sing crescendo and diminuendo
- follow the conductor's interpretation

Rhythm – sing exactly in the correct time, with accurate note values and rest values (silence)

Musicianship – knowledge, skill, and artistic sensitivity in performing music

- sing with direction to a climax in a musical phrase
- sing with dynamics and expression.

Part singing – correct tune, pitch, rhythm and dynamics, combining voice parts in correct sequence

Memorisation – all of the above placed into a song and learnt by memory

Posture – standing tall, well balanced ... feet placed comfortably to support the body, knees loose, hands at sides

Body language – focussed, watching, alert to what is required

Eye contact – watching the conductor, knowing the conductor's gestures and how to respond to them.

Face – bright, alert, interested faces, eyebrows up, showing the interpretation of the music – telling the story

Attitude – motivated, keen, enthusiastic, 'hear me sing' look.

Self-discipline – students responsible for their actions, following the procedures required.

An excellent performance = a polished choral sound and presentation with a successful outcome.