

# A first week update from the Music Department from Mrs Wellman:

Wow ... what an amazing response to your first learning challenge as we find our way forward.

I have been really impressed with your positive, insightful, honest and humorous responses! So many great pieces of feedback based on the 'Great British Home Chorus' sessions that you have done. It has been brilliant to hear that loads of members of your family are doing it with you! Keep the photos, videos and stories coming of all your music making as the weeks progress. Here are just a few ...

*'Learning Together, Making Music Together'*

Edward Taylor 8E

First rehearsal Gareth Malone

25/03/2020



- Gareth showed many warmups in his first session including, standing up and stretching with his body stretching muscles in his mouth and even making faces. He also made us think about our voices including humming to start with and scales.
- Towards the end Gareth introduced us to a song called "You are my sunshine".
- I thought the session was fun and entertaining and made me want to play some songs of my own. I watched it with my mum as she sang along to the song at the end. I feel like Gareth is great person to intrudes young and old musicians to his style and would encourage that you watch him to learn more songs throughout the term.
- I am looking forward to learning the "You are my sunshine" song and performing together with everyone around the world.

## One of the slides from a powerpoint completed by Gui Duarte-Pereira (Y8)



Who did you watch it with? What was new?

I did it with my mum and my sister and we all enjoyed it very much ....

My mum is very big johnny cash fan so of course she would like it ...

My sister like specially the warm-up because Gareth's hair was getting messy.

And my favorite thing was his setup I think its so good.

And at some point in his live stream he had 15,000 people watching him...

And doing the activities with him.

## Great British Home Chorus - FIRST REHEARSAL – Gareth Malone (Grace Maple – Y8)

My mum and I did the session together and loved it!

We started with the warm up activities, I thought it would just be the usual me, me, me, me, me vocals but Gareth started with some physical activities such as shaking our hands and arms – waking our limbs and bodies up! We shook them up in the air, down low and side to side. Then we moved on to shoulder rolls, forwards and backwards and my favourite part – adding a little creak as we moved our shoulders!

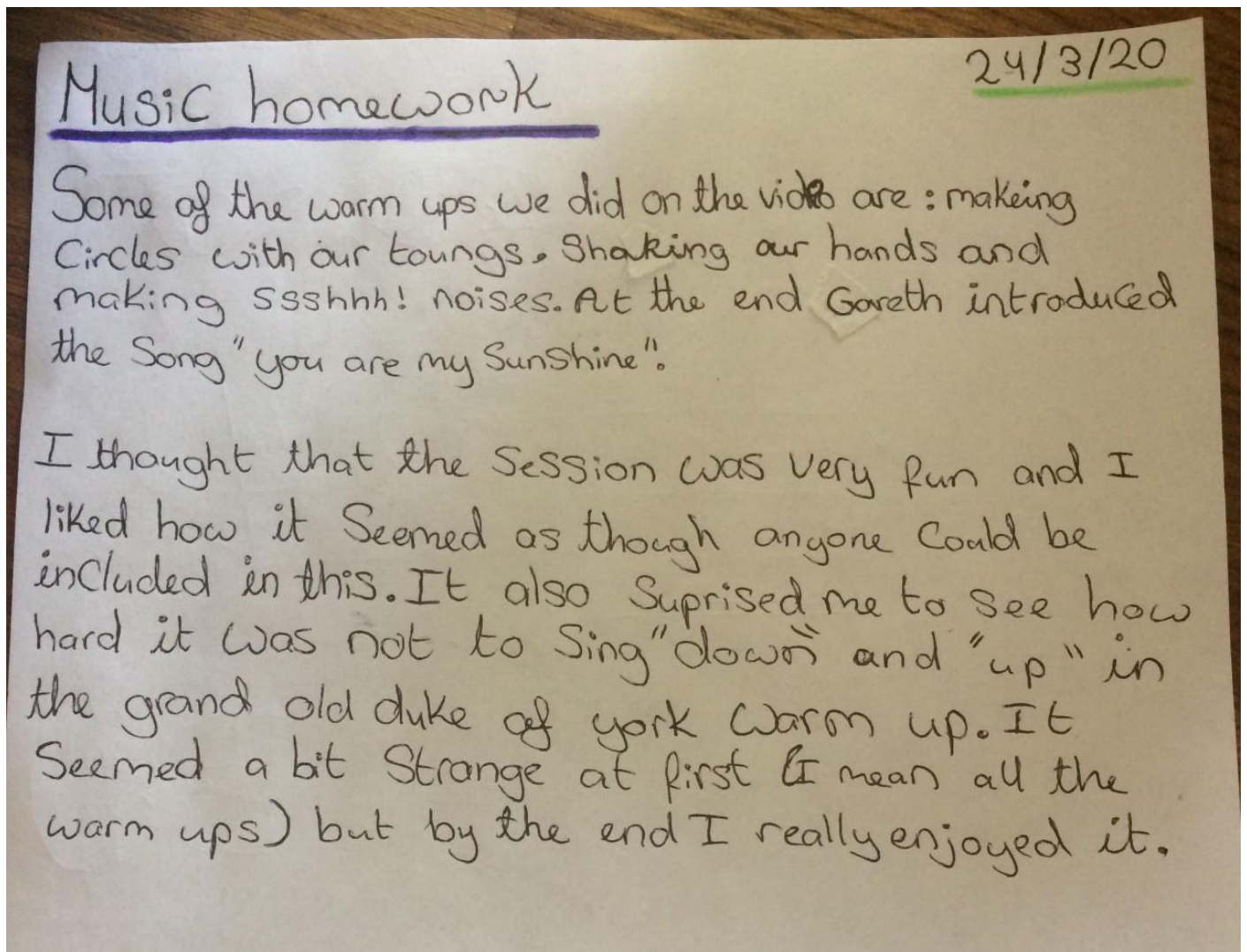
The facial warm ups were good too, big face, little face, wide face and long face. This really made your whole mouth feel awake as all the muscles were moving. We also enjoyed the dig up the road activity making the noises and the warming up the tongue part.

Mum and I found ourselves really giggling during the Grand Old Duke of York song – it was a real mind tester too, as it was extremely difficult to miss the words out or swap them around, as it is so different to how we have always sung the song! Then we moved to Danger Men at Work, oh my goodness, this was so tricky and one I think we'd need to practice for a long time to get it right.

Towards the end, Gareth introduced us to the song 'You are my Sunshine' – so appropriate for the time we are in and what we are experiencing. It's a song so many people know although I don't know all of the words.

We thought the session was fantastic and really made us laugh and cheered us up. It was a nice bit of escapism from the heavy news reports and the thought of being locked inside. I was very shocked by the variety of warm up sessions, I had always thought it was just voice exercises but it has shown me that singing is about far more than just the voice, it is about the whole body and being relaxed to express yourself.

I will be doing some other sessions as I thoroughly enjoyed the warm up sessions but I'm also really keen to learn all the words to 'You are my Sunshine'.



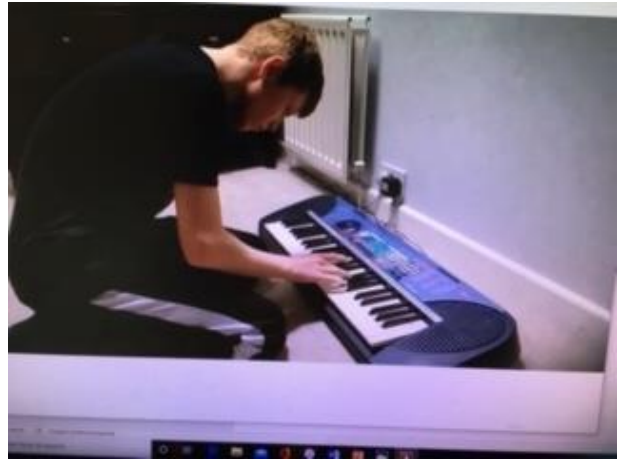
**From Marwan Hussein (Y7)**

Before starting to sing, he did a warm up. This included stretching his arms, shaking his hands, exercising his shoulders, moving his head from side to side, stretching his face, loosening his face to stop any tension, warming up his tongue and exercising his voice. After that, he started doing singing warm ups. In the singing warm up he sang and played the piano at the same time. The songs he sang were 'Oh the Grand Old Duke of York' and 'Danger Men at Work'.

Towards the end, he introduced the song 'You are My Sunshine'. It fits into this time period, as it shows that we all need sunshine at the moment and it's also about not being able to be with someone that you love. That could be a relative or a close friend or just someone that is very close to you.

I think this session was great and it really brought people together through music in this hard time. I thought that was very important, as there's many people at home with not much to do and not many people to hang around with, so it's good that we can come together through music and get through Coronavirus together.

**Harry and Tom Drayton (Y8)**



**Josh Meredith (Y7)**



**Isaac Hopkins (Y7)**

