

**Mainland Exchange Programme for Students**  
**An Exploration into the Music and Culture of Beijing (2018)**

Ten students from the choir and orchestra participated in an exchange programme named, 'An Exploration into the Music and Culture of Beijing (2018)' organized by the Education Bureau from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. The programme aimed to enhance students' understanding of the culture and development of music on the Mainland, the studying life of music majors, as well as to understand the history and art culture of Beijing.

Students were invited to the China Conservatory of Music and Beijing Contemporary and Music Academy, where students had a chance to perform and exchange their experiences in music education. Students also visited a musical instrument factory where they could see the process of how musical instruments were made. They also visited the Big Bell Temple Museum, where they gained a better understanding of the relationship between music and religion in Chinese history.

Students also got a chance to visit famous historical sites like Qianmen Street, the Great Wall of China and the Forbidden City. Qianmen Street has a history of more than 570 years. The street was renovated and reopened just before the 2008 Beijing Olympics. It is a good example of how to preserve culture. Moreover, it was the first time the students visited the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, where they were stunned and impressed by the great works of architecture.

The five-day programme has provided a valuable experience for students to further enhance their musical knowledge as well as to understand the culture of Beijing. Students were enlightened by their fruitful journey to Beijing.