

Queen Margaret's  
Presents

LIONEL BART'S

# OLIVER



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## A Note from the Director

Welcome to our production of *Oliver!*. It is with immense joy and pride that I extend a warm welcome to all of you, to this musical rendition of Charles Dickens' timeless classic.

This production has been a collaborative effort by a team of talented students, dedicated teachers, and passionate volunteers. The journey from auditions to rehearsals has been filled with hard work, laughter, and shared moments of inspiration.

*Oliver!* is a tale that resonates across generations, reminding us of the enduring power of hope, the strength of friendship, and the pursuit of a better life. Through the vibrant characters and memorable songs, our students have poured their hearts and souls into bringing this story to life on our stage.

I am continually inspired by the dedication and enthusiasm of our young actors and crew members. Their commitment to excellence, their resilience in the face of challenges, and their unwavering support for each other have been truly remarkable. It has been a privilege to witness their growth as performers and individuals throughout this process.

As you sit back and enjoy the show, I encourage you to immerse yourselves in the world of *Oliver!*. Let the melodies and lyrics transport you to Victorian London, where *Oliver Twist*, a young orphan, embarks on a quest for love, family, and a better life. This promises to be a theatrical experience you won't forget.

**Mary Griffin**  
Director of Drama



# The Cast

**Oliver Twist** - Hannah Burt

**Fagin** - Rhiannon Commins

**The Artful Dodger** - Isabel Riall

**Nancy** - Freya Cowen

**Bill Sikes** - Rachael Turner

**Bet** - Sophie Smyth

**Mr Bumble** - Imi Flower

**Widow Corney** - Larissa Gilleard

**Mr Brownlow** - Pippa Cochran

**Mr Sowerberry and Mrs Bedwin** - Charlotte Leask

**Mrs Sowerberry** - Harriette Pemberton

**Charlotte, Old Sally and Milkmaid** - Lucy Connelly

**Noah Claypole** - Daisy Lockett

**Dr Grimwig** - Olivia Blythe

**Charley Bates** - Martha Whitfield

**Workhouse Matron** - Esha Ashiq

**Workhouse Governor and Rose Seller** - Jennifer Foster

**Workhouse Governor and Strawberry Seller** - Emilia Robertson

**Knife Grinder and Pub Chairman** - Maddie Barker

**Workhouse Governor and Maid** - Matilda Barber

**Workhouse Governor** - Evie Grant

**Workhouse Chairman** - Evangeline Richards

**Workhouse Assistant and Lamplighter** - Greta Wilkinson

**Workhouse Assistant and Hussar** - Amelia Buttery

**Barkeeper** - Harriet Jones

**Bow Street Runner 1** - Sadie Heslop

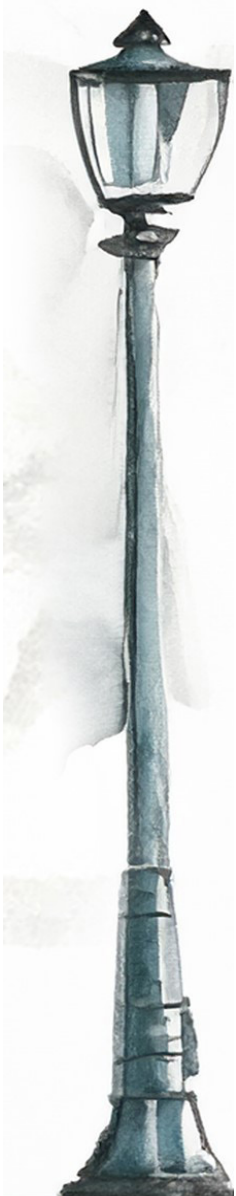
**Bow Street Runner 2** - Immy Bell

**Girl** - Sophia Harrison

**Dodger's Crew** - Lola Fawcett, Heidi Styles, Cara Styles, India Tonks,  
Martha Whitfield, Polly Whitfield, Amelia Williamson.

**Workhouse Boys** - Maddie Barker, Immy Bell, Lola Fawcett, Sophia Harrison,  
Sadie Heslop, Harriet Jones, Heidi Styles, Cara Styles, India Tonks,  
Martha Whitfield, Polly Whitfield, Amelia Williamson.

**Crowd** - Esha Ashiq, Matilda Barber, Maddie Barker, Immy Bell, Amelia Buttery,  
Evie Grant, Sophia Harrison, Sadie Heslop, Harriet Jones, Evangeline Richards,  
Greta Wilkinson.



## The Musicians

**Conductor and Musical Director** - Christopher Reeve

**Friday Conductor** - John Atkin

**Piano** - Simon Dearsley

**Clarinet** - Lucinda Addy

**Flute** - Yanni Chan

**Bass** - Zoë Usher

**Bass** - Sam Roberts

**Reed 1** - Louise Evans

**Reed 2** - Jonathan Sage

**Reed 3** - Isabel Dowell, Amy Spencer

**Trumpet** - Ross Simpson, George Hetherington

**Trombone** - Kev Holbrough, John Atkin

**Percussion** - Dave Boston

## The Crew

**Production Manager** - Mary Griffin

**Directors** - Mary Griffin and Hannah Priestley

**Musical Director** - Christopher Reeve

**Technical Director** - Nicholas Schneider

**Choreographer** - Alison Leadley

**Wardrobe** - Hannah Priestley

**Hair and Makeup** - Annabelle Harrison, Cindy Luo,  
Mary Griffin, Hannah Priestley

**Stage Management** - Hana Clarke, Belle Powell, Cassie Gao

**Lighting Programming and Operation** - Ruby Lau

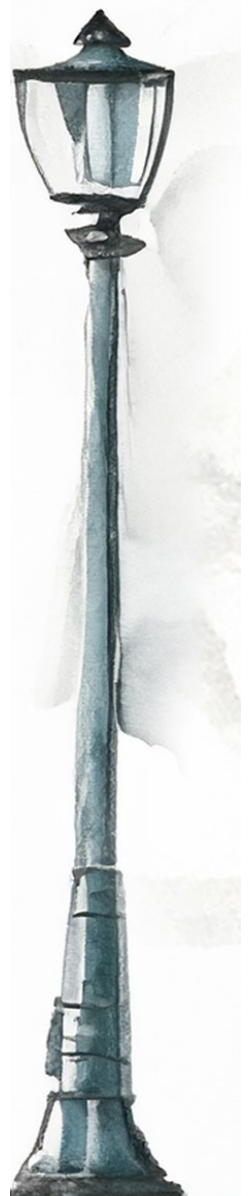
**Audio Programming and Operation** - Eunice Lau

**Stage Crew** - Lydia Barker, Keiana Copeland, Akosua Effah, Amelia Fenwick,  
Annabelle Harrison, Lucy Pearson, Bea Perez Martinez-Avial, Ninan Purnananda,  
Emma Schüller, Camino Vilanova Perez

**Poster** - Jennifer Foster

## Special Thanks

Hannah Harrison, Emily Sowden, Matthew Wilkinson and the External Relations Team, Cassie Page, Sarah Clark, Terry Burt, Nick Edwards and the Accounts Team, Ed Cole, Katie Duncan-Hodgson and the Estates Team, Rachel Lavell, Claire Nadin, Fiona Whittle, William Grant, Sian Thomas, the QM Catering Team, and all those parents who listened to the same two verses being sung repeatedly over the summer holidays.



# Meet the Cast



**Hannah Burt**

**Character:** Oliver

**Why did you audition for *Oliver!*?** I always audition for the school play and when I heard that we would be performing *Oliver!* I was over the moon as it is one of my favourite musicals!

**What has been the best thing about the rehearsal process?** Making the production the best it can be while having fun.

**What has been most challenging?** Learning lines and songs.

**What are you most proud of achieving?** Fitting into the role so comfortably.

**What advice would you give to anyone considering auditioning for a future show at QM?**

It doesn't matter if you make a mistake during the audition or in rehearsals, it's all part of the process.

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**Freya Cowen**

**Character:** Nancy

**Why did you audition for *Oliver!*?** I never even thought about not auditioning for *Oliver!*. The school plays are one of the highlights of the year for me. Getting to meet all the new girls and have lots of fun creating something that everyone's families and the school get to enjoy is something I will always remember. This is also the first musical I've been able to audition for and I am so excited to have the opportunity to do this for my final year production.

**What has been the best thing about the rehearsal process?** Rehearsing Oom-Pah-Pah with everybody after school and everybody letting loose their best cockney accents whilst singing/screaming at the top of their lungs.

**What has been the most challenging?** Probably trying to balance final A Level work and university applications alongside rehearsals. But nothing could stop me throwing myself fully into the production and I've somehow managed to make it work.

**What are you most proud of achieving?** Finally landing my first female role at the school!

**What advice would you give to anyone considering auditioning for a future show at QM?**

If it's your first ever school play or your 10<sup>th</sup> I would say you should definitely go for it! Being a part of a production at QM is so special, you get to meet so many new people and it's a really safe space to step out of your comfort zone. I was terrified of acting until I was in a QM production, and then all the fear just started melting away. Whether you want to help out with makeup, backstage or on the stage itself, I think being a part of a QM play is a definite must!

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**Rhiannon Commins**

**Character:** Fagin

**Why did you audition for *Oliver!*?** I thought it was a great opportunity to expand my knowledge and skills in musical theatre.

**What has been the best thing about the rehearsal process?** The friendships that have been made.

**What has been most challenging?** Making myself become the character and being 'rodent-like'.

**What are you most proud of achieving?** Being able to sing my parts and sound like the character.

**What advice would you give to anyone considering auditioning for a future show at QM?**

Just be confident in the auditions and take any advice like it is sacred because it will benefit you in the long run!



**Rachael Turner**

**Character:** Bill Sikes

**Why did you audition for *Oliver!*?** *Oliver!* is a classic English musical, I wanted more acting experience and wanted to be introduced to a wider variety of characters.

**What has been the best thing about the rehearsal process?** Seeing the performance come together as a whole.

**What has been most challenging?** Juggling A Level studies and rehearsals!

**What are you most proud of achieving?** My first male role.

**What advice would you give to anyone considering auditioning for a future show at QM?**

Go for it, jump straight in, it's a great experience to work with other year groups and make new friends.

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**Amelia Buttery**

**Character:** Crowd, Street Vendor, Workhouse Assistant and Hussar.

**Why did you audition for *Oliver!*?** I have always loved performing and I wanted to be more involved in what QM has to offer.

**What has been the best thing about the rehearsal process?** I think my favourite part about rehearsals has been learning Oom-Pah-Pah with all my friends and the people in the older year groups.

**What has been most challenging?** In my opinion, the most challenging part has been managing rehearsals and extracurricular activities.

**What are you most proud of achieving?** I am most proud of actually going for a role as originally I found it quite daunting and didn't want to sing on a stage with people I hadn't even spoken to before. Everyone has been really nice and the whole process has been really fun.

**What advice would you give to anyone considering auditioning for a future show at QM?**

I would say to be prepared to persevere through late nights and to be organised with your rehearsals, sports fixtures and school work. However, I really shouldn't complain as the process of being in a show has taught me so much and I would like to continue with it next year.

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**Jennifer Foster**

**Character:** Workhouse Governor and Rose Seller

**Why did you audition for *Oliver!*?** My dream is to be a singer and perform on stage; *Oliver!* has been a great way for me to expand my performance experience and test myself in that kind of setting.

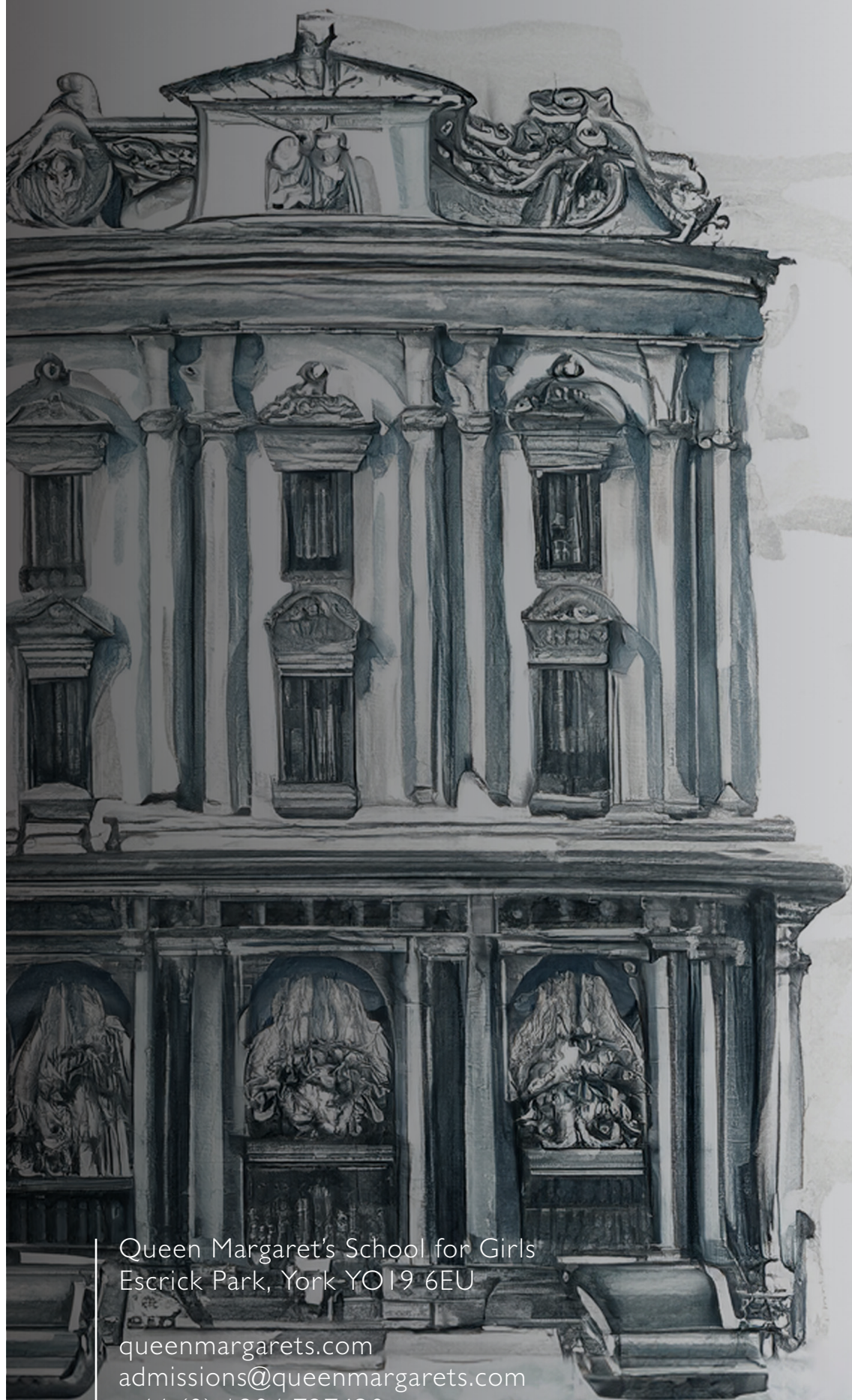
**What has been the best thing about the rehearsal process?** The best thing about rehearsals has been getting to know students in the younger year groups better and the sense of community when we all sing together.

**What has been most challenging?** The hardest thing has been characterising my voice when singing.

**What are you most proud of achieving?** I am most proud of the fact that I did end up auditioning, as I wasn't sure at first.

**What advice would you give to anyone considering auditioning for a future show at QM?**

You've got nothing to lose, it's all great experience.



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