

# Wychavon Festival of Brass Youth Event

Evesham High School

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2011

More than 80 young brass players walked through the doors of Evesham high school to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Wychavon Festival of Brass Youth Project. Under the baton of Nicky Daw, musical director for Worcestershire Youth Brass Band, the young musicians played a selection of music that was chosen to stretch their current standards.

## Stroll in the Park

Some of the participants saw Phillip Sparke's, Stroll in the Park as a challenge to start with, but after their first sectional with their professional tutors it became their own 'stroll in the park'. Tutoring the young percussion section was Steve Jones (Tredgar town band). Controlling the 6 tubas was George Cullwick (University of Warwick Brass Band). Andy Johnson (Flowers) had control of the Euphoniums, Trombones and Baritones, whilst Naomi Daw had the Tenor Horns. David Moore and Helen Lane shared the almighty volume of the cornets between them.

This event was funded by the Wychavon Festival of Brass committee, working in partnership with Worcestershire Youth Music. It was free for all members.

## Looking to expand.

For the first time in the history of this event, there were 2 brass bands. Whilst the more experienced pupils were being tutored, the beginners were able to show their talents with Mark Oldham conducting them, assisted by Charlotte Daw.

Nicky Daw commented "It's a dream come true to be able to allow the beginners access to this day. The event is about giving the young players the opportunity of playing in an ensemble for the first time with the support from the more experienced players in the County Brass Band taking on the mentorship role for the day"

## Brassbound

As is tradition, the Wychavon Festival of Brass invites one member of the Worcestershire Youth Brass Band who is studying music GCSE or A-Level to compose a piece of music which will get a world premiere at the youth project day. Clare Jakeman (E<sub>b</sub> Bass) was asked to compose this piece and she entitled her own composition, 'Brassbound' after she enjoyed playing 'Brass on the run' and 'Westbound' in previous years at this event.

Report by Chris Daw