

Note perfect for Gresham's

Holt school celebrates culmination of five-year project

THE NEW £6.5m music school and sixth form centre at Gresham's School, The Britten Building, has hosted its first concert.

The five-year project to improve the musical provision at the school is the most significant addition to the school in 20 years and benefactors, acousticians, surveyors, engineers and architects came together to celebrate their creation with a programme of music featuring the school's choir Schola Cantorum, musicians from the prep and senior school and the Albion Quartet in



the new Fishmongers Recital Hall.

The building, named after Old Greshamian composer Benjamin Britten, has replaced the school's existing music teaching areas and provides modern and comfortable practice and performance spaces, including the 140-seat recital hall which features a piano selected from the home of Steinway & Sons in Hamburg.

Pupils will benefit from the provision of an industry standard recording studio, seminar and teaching rooms and social spaces including a café. Fittingly, Schola Cantorum performed *A Hymn to the Virgin* which Britten composed while he recuperated from illness in the sick bay at Gresham's in July 1930, aged just 16.

Gresham's headmaster, Douglas Robb, said: "The creation of the Britten Building demonstrates Gresham's commitment to providing the best, state of the art facilities for its pupils.

"The school has a famously strong musical heritage and this fantastic new building will ensure that music continues to be at the very heart of school life." ♦

