

Historic Invitation for Talented Students

London Beckons the Normal Band for Global Spectacular

The founder of one of the most globally prestigious parades, and the great grandson of wartime leader Sir Winston Churchill, are travelling to **Normal, Illinois**, to deliver a very special invitation to some talented young students from two schools.

Bob Bone, Founder and Chair of the World-renowned, London New Year's Day Parade and Duncan Sandys (pronounced Sands), are to invite **The Normal Marching Band: The Pride of Unit 5**, to participate in **London's New Year's Day Parade & Festival** - at the turn of the year 2024/2025.

The Band, made up of students from Normal West and Normal Community High Schools, will have a life-changing week in the historic city performing in the parade and immersing in a full educational programme visiting museums, historic sites and places of architectural and artistic interest.

The 2025 parade will be one of the biggest and best in the event's history, (which spans five decades 1980s-2020's) and will be screened live across the World – including the USA on the PBS Network. The parade sees more than 8,000 performers from all corners of the globe entertaining a street audience of around 500,000 – and a global TV audience of tens of millions.

The festival concerts carry much cache – and utilises some of the most historic concert venues in London.

Mr Sandys, who now lives in Georgia, is an Ambassador of London's New Year's Day Parade and something of an historian re his great grandfather – Great Britain's legendary wartime Prime Minister.

About the Band: On October 21, the Normal Marching Band was named the Class 6A Champion at the Illinois State Marching Band Championships, also earning top honors in Performance Effect and Visual Performance. The band wraps up its 2023 competitive season on October 28 at the Bands of America St. Louis Super Regional Championships. Previously, the band has performed in the Illinois State Fair Parade and the Chicago Thanksgiving Parade.

Media are cordially invited to the ceremony. Additional guests to include Mayor Chris Koos of the Town of Normal, Dr. Kristen Weikle, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Adam Zbrozek, Normal Community High School Principal, and Ms. Angie Codron, Normal West High School Principal.

Date: Friday November 3rd at 6:00 PM – Normal West High School Auditorium

FURTHER INFORMATION

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