Further research on singing and its potential risk. (Added October 2020)

This pdf is from the **Singing, Wind Instruments (SWI) and Performance Activities Working Group.**
You might be interested in these extracts (numbered as in the document and selected for relevance to the classroom):

Singing, playing of wind instruments, and high-volume speech in presentation and performance
settings have been singled out as potentially high-risk activities for transmission of SARS CoV-2,
following several well-documented outbreaks associated with choirs and performances across the
world. These have raised questions about the potential for droplet and aerosol transmission from
these sources.
We have reviewed the international evidence base and commissioned two research trials (PERFORM
and SOBADRA) to investigate droplet and aerosol production in performance events.

This work is on-going and we outline recommendations for further research and analysis

3.1. The total mass of droplets generated from singing is a similar order of magnitude to
speaking at a comparable volume for the same time duration.
3.2. Droplet deposition onto surfaces from singing and speech does not generally extend
beyond 2m from the subject (high confidence level).
…
3.4. Oral bacteria can be detected in droplets and aerosols generated during respiratory
activities, including singing. This shows that droplets can carry microorganisms.
…
4.3. Singing produces more aerosols … than speaking at a similar loudness (medium confidence level).
4.4. The loudness of singing and speaking is a significant factor in determining the amount (total
mass) of aerosol generated:
4.4.1. Singing and speaking at a low or medium loudness does not produce significantly
more aerosol than breathing (medium confidence level),.

4.4.2. Very loud singing and speaking can generate around 20-30 times more aerosol (in
terms of total mass) than breathing, quiet singing and speaking (high confidence level).
4.5. Some individuals produce a much greater mass of droplets and aerosol than other people,
to the extent that breathing from a small number of people (2 out of 25 in the PERFORM
study) generates as much material as singing at the loudest volume does by others. (high
confidence level).

5.2. In terms of droplet spread, social distancing is a prime mitigation. In terms of aerosol, social
distancing and ventilation are important mitigation measures.

ALL members have asked DfE for specific guidance on choral speaking, but have as yet received no specific response.
If a class is seated facing the front of the class the projection of any droplets may well not create a particular risk of contamination.