TEN TOP TIPS FOR ACCOMPANYING

1. Prepare the music in advance for any awkward page turns or repeats.
2. Aim to provide firm rhythmic support.
3. Positive cuing for entries if needed.
4. Follow the candidates’ musical line visually as much as possible.
5. Be alert to candidate rushing/slowing/setting unsuitable tempi.
6. Try to be a clear presence in the overall texture whilst being careful not to overpower.
7. Contribute positively to musical content, e.g. articulation, dynamics etc. even if the candidate doesn’t.
8. Retain a confident, positive outlook whatever you’re actually feeling!
9. Playing all the notes is neither necessary or required. A skeleton version, leaving out inner notes of chords, octaves etc is totally acceptable.
10. On leaving after the pieces, say something positive to the candidate and look encouraging!