

For the first time in their 162-year history, Verwood Concert Brass have qualified for the National Brass Band Championships.

They secured third place in the Championship Section of the West of England Regional Finals, earning them a spot to perform at the Royal Albert Hall in October.

Chairman Helen Dunnings said: "What our bands have accomplished this weekend is nothing short of historic.

"It reflects years of dedication from players, volunteers, and our whole community.

"Verwood has proved that a town with heart, ambition, and teamwork can achieve something truly extraordinary."

In the same competition, Verwood Town Band took second place in the Second Section, qualifying for the National Finals in York this September.

It has now reached the finals for four consecutive years.

The band also earned promotion to the First Section.

Both bands benefit from a four-tier musical structure in Verwood, including Concert Brass, Town Band, Community Band, and a Training Band, which together nurture musicians of all ages.

Musical director Kevin Smith has led the Town Band from the Fourth Section to the First, and has guided Concert Brass to the national stage for the first time.

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