

Schools Forum

Tuesday 22nd September 2015

Application for Continuation of Music Funding £38,000 2016/17

Purpose of report

To consider the work of Forest Arts Centre in supporting Walsall Schools and young people with music provision and musical opportunities. To consider continuing Schools Forum support for Forest Arts Centre.

Recommendations

To approve £38,000 School Forum funding be granted to Forest Arts Centre in 2016/17.

Background

Over 8,800 pupils receive weekly music tuition in Walsall through Forest Arts Service peripatetic programme. Weekly “after school” opportunities provided at the centre during term time and the provision of holiday and half term arts activities are also firmly established.

The pressures for time within the school day means that Forest Arts is increasingly providing outlets for young people to rehearse, participate and perform outside of traditional school hours. This additionality allows progression by bringing together young people from a variety of schools to work collaboratively on music which may be limited within the constraints of individual schools.

Open access programmes for music and related arts beyond the school setting enable Walsall’s young people to engage in activities for extended periods of time, fully develop their potential and, if appropriate, embark on vocational pathways into the creative industries.

Guided by the Hub Headteacher User Group, Forest Arts developed a framework, Walsall School Music Education Plan (submitted and approved by DfE /ACE May 2014), to support schools in maximising the impact of music within a broad and balanced curriculum. This plan helps schools identify and provide essential

additional support for their children's musical needs and the introduction of Charanga will provide an outstanding and easy to use school classroom resource at all year levels.

Walsall schools have traditionally been recognised for high levels of musical engagement. This is testament to the embedded partnership arrangements that exist and have been in place for many years.

The impact of music provided by Forest Arts:

- Over 8,800 young people receive weekly music tuition in Walsall.
- Forest Arts provides open access evening Music Centres every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the school year, with additional opportunities during half-terms and the Summer Holiday. These weekly opportunities include – orchestras, bands, percussion ensembles, choirs, music theatre companies, rock & pop academy, world music, music & dance companies, and bespoke projects.
- There are 290 regular ensembles across Walsall providing choral and instrumental rehearsal and performance opportunities for at least 5,000 young people.
- Over 3,000 primary pupils receive first access whole-class teaching support, of which more than half elect to continue in *pathway* groups. This represents a continuation of over 50%, which is in the highest quartile nationally.
- Over 2,000 pupils achieved exam success in grades 1-8 (NQF Levels 1-3) during 2014/15
- Inclusion for all young people who wish to participate in music remains a key driver

Proposal

Schools Forum to continue to work in partnership with Forest Arts Centre to provide additional resources and support to Walsall Schools and young people for their musical education.

Financial implications/Value for Money

Previous submissions to Schools Forum identified the impact on schools due to the drop in grant for Music education. Incremental reduction in government and local authority funding places pressure on the economy of scale required to enable the Music Team to sustain core functionality and maintain the diverse portfolio.

The 2016/2017 revenue budget sheet for Music is:

Forest Arts Music Education Budget	2016/17
Teaching Staff Costs	776,000
Gross Music Expenditure	776,000
Music Grant (tbc)	360,000
Schools SLA Income (tbc)	378,000
Total Music Income	738,000
Net Potential Shortfall	38,000
Schools Forum - Previous Funding	38,000
Shortfall (Less Schools Forum support tbc)	0

A £38,000 contribution (5% of service budget) levers access to the broad spectrum of opportunities and schemes which normally would not be available within core portfolio due to financial constraints. All Walsall schools and young people have access to this service. The contribution of £38,000 equates to just 73p per school age child per annum but collectively unlocks access to all the activities listed above.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

School Improvement

Forest Arts Service provides a range of opportunities and initiatives to young people and schools which are only made possible by the provision of resourcing from Schools Forum.

These include:

- **Music Centres** Forest Arts continues to provide after school activities in music to facilitate opportunities for ensembles, bands, choirs and orchestras which might otherwise be unavailable in schools. The provision of borough wide after school Music Centres enable young people to develop group skills and play alongside their peers. Increased pressure within schools for time and resources means this outlet for musical development is becoming increasingly important for thousands of Walsall young people.
- **Secondary MusE** The Secondary music agenda has been greatly enriched by Forest Arts development and progression of *MusE*. This collegiate group of

all Walsall Secondary Music Teachers work collaboratively with Forest Arts to strengthen the role and provide advocacy for music within school life. MusE's collaborative initiative through Forest Arts has been recognised by Secondary Headteachers as a powerful exemplar of subject specific support, challenge and development; both anticipating and addressing recommendations in the Ofsted report "Music in Schools : What Hubs Must Do" (November 2013). Forest Arts / MusE's initiatives include regular CPD, large-scale vocal / instrumental workshops and performances, with a vibrant "buddy" system to partner together music departments for joint working and mutual peer review. At the request of Secondary Head Teachers a sub-group from MusE has developed exemplar assessment frameworks for music Key Stages 3 and 4 which reflect the needs of the subject with more facility and appropriateness. This development work will continue in the coming year.

- **Primary MusE** Forest Arts have extended the MusE support mechanisms to Walsall Primary Schools, through the creation of the MusE-Primary network. This collegiate body of Primary and Special School music deliverers provides a forum for CPD (including resource support for the new National Curriculum for Music), subject advocacy and a programme of large-scale events, pupil workshops and festivals.
- **Charanga** Forest Arts are partnering with Charanga (a digital music education resources specialist) the delivery of a 1 year *Musical School* support programme for Primary Schools. This new exciting Primary music scheme for the National Curriculum will provide easy access to contemporary digital resources for music teachers and schools with online music learning resources for young people at all year levels and at all stages of development. The package includes planning, and whiteboard resources, plus free training and CPD at Forest Arts Centre. The scheme is non-specialist friendly, completely inspection framework compliant and enables primary schools to have superb and easy to use music curriculum resources.
- **Sing For Pleasure** Confidence and expertise in leading vocal groups is one of the most significant musical needs of teachers and yet access to top quality training in vocal leadership has been limited. Forest Arts in partnership with national choral organisation *Singing for Pleasure* will develop new ways to encourage the enjoyment of singing in class and choirs. Professional development of class singing teaching and choir conducting are key areas within this. This work stems from Forest Arts development of a Singing Strategy for Walsall and model singing strategies can be provided for each school.
- **Ten Pieces** During 2015-2016 Forest Arts will extend opportunities and working arrangements with Secondary schools through the BBC Ten Pieces curriculum initiative. This builds upon the 2014/15 Ten Pieces programme for Primary schools. Ten Pieces aims to open up the world of classical music to young people, inspiring them to develop their own creative responses to

specific pieces through music, dance or digital arts. The repertoire includes a range of music from baroque to contemporary. This Arts Council / DfE / BBC initiative will be facilitated by Forest Arts as the local Ten Pieces Champion to provide free film showings, free CPD sessions linked to the curriculum with themed workshops and celebratory concerts. This project material is also very suitable for Key Stage 2.

- **Music Mark** Forest Arts Music Hub has been given the status and remit to award **Music Mark**. **Music Mark** status is a nationally recognised benchmark available to schools which appreciate the value of music education as part of a broad, balanced and relevant school curriculum and demonstrates a willingness to engage in the development conversations related to improving music provision for all children and young people. **Music Mark** status will be free to Walsall schools (with all associated costs borne by the Forest Arts Music Hub) and can only be awarded through the Forest Arts Music Hub. Information has already been sent out to all Walsall Schools.

The benefits of *Music Mark* status include:

- **School Membership Logo** (a school achieving *Music Mark* status is entitled to use the School Membership logo, for example on your website or your letterhead)
- **MarketPlace** (access to an area on the *Music Mark* website which brings together a comprehensive range of proven providers and successfully tried and tested resources to support the delivery of the music curriculum)
- **Access to:**
 - Forest Arts Music Hub's latest documentation to support our local schools, to include "model" plans, policies and strategies
 - School-to-school networks to enable the sharing of best practice within Walsall
 - Termly Music Mark webinars to support developing classroom practice
 - Free and discounted rate to local CPD / events and the annual *Music Mark* national conference
- **Peer-to-Peer Network** (a supportive online space for the sharing of musical practice with other music teachers across the UK. It is a platform for those interested in developing knowledge and contributing resources or topic discussions)
- **Monthly membership** newsletter highlighting sector news
- *Music Mark* schools are part of the largest national Music Education organisation in the UK advocating:
 - Government and non-Government departments on behalf of music education

- Across the music education sector and wider education sector on behalf of music education
- **Monthly *ReadThis*** mail-out of useful case studies, resource and ideas, gathered from peer colleagues
- **Termly 'Schools Successes'** newsletter celebrating achievements within your school
- **Opportunity** to contribute to the development of local programmes, policies and guidance which will support fellow members and the wider sector

Members eligible to vote

All voting members.