

Forest Arts Report to School Forum
Tuesday 23rd September 2014

Application for Continuation of Music Funding £38,000 2015/16

Context

Over 8,800 pupils receive weekly music tuition in Walsall schools 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 has 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 will help schools identify and provide essential additional support for their children's musical needs.

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.

Secondary

The Secondary music agenda has been greatly enriched by Forest Arts development and progressing 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 with 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 recent Ofsted report “Music in Schools : What Hubs Must Do” (November 2013). Forest Arts / MusE's joint response includes 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.

Primary /Special

Forest Arts are proposing to extend the MusE support mechanisms for Walsall Primary Schools, through the creation of a MusE-Primary network. Such a collegiate body of Primary and Special School music deliverers could provide a forum for CPD (including the new National Curriculum for Music), subject advocacy and a programme of large-scale events, pupil workshops and festivals.

During 2014-2015 Forest Arts will extend opportunities and working arrangements with Primary schools through the recently announced BBC Ten Pieces curriculum initiative. Ten Pieces aims to open up the world of classical music to children, 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.

Forest Arts Service receives no external funding to resource these initiatives for schools.

Ten Pieces Timeline:

Phase 1: Inspiration (October 2014)

Ten Pieces will launch in October 2014, with a series of free film screenings at Forest Arts of a stunning new cinematic film introducing ten pieces of classical music featuring the world-class BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

Phase 2: Exploration and Creativity (October 2014 – March 2015)

Children will be asked to respond creatively to the music through their own compositions, dance or digital art/animation. BBC Learning will provide a wealth of online resources to support children's exploration of the works – and help them develop their creative responses. Schools can link up with Forest Arts as the Ten Pieces Champion for Walsall to build on the work they are doing in the classroom.

Phase 3: Presentation and Performance (April 2015 – July 2015)

Forest Arts will be running more Ten Pieces themed events. More details will follow. The project will culminate in opportunities to showcase the work of children from the regions, as well as the original ten pieces. Clips of creative responses from children throughout the UK will be made available online.

Music Impact

- Over 8,800 pupils receive weekly music tuition in Walsall schools
- 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 2013/14
- Inclusion for all young people who wish to participate in music remains a key driver and significant numbers of pupils with socio economic challenges, SEN and vulnerable pupils receive support to include bespoke provision.

Finance

Previous submissions to Schools Forum identified the impact on schools due to the drop in the Arts Council (ACE) grant for Music.

ACE Grant 2012/2013 £687,123

ACE Grant 2013/2014 £549,698

ACE Grant 2014/2015 £357,899

Forest Arts – Budget Reductions	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Council Budget Reductions	152,914	101,273	191,363	1,845	0	0	447,395
External Grant Reductions	0	2,765	84,865	76,347	137,425	191,799	493,201
Total Budget Reductions	152,914	104,038	276,228	78,192	137,425	197,799	940,596

The incremental reduction in government funding places pressure on the required economy of scale which enables the Music Team to sustain core functionality and maintain the diverse portfolio.

The 2015/2016 revenue budget sheet for Music is:

Forest Arts Music Education Budget	2015/16
Teaching Payroll	780,000
Outreach Travel	40,000
Gross Music Expenditure	820,000
Arts Council Grant (tbc)	358,000
Schools SLA Income (tbc)	420,000
Total Music Income	778,000
Net Potential Shortfall	42,000
Schools Forum Funding (If recommendation is approved)	38,000
Shortfall (Less Schools Forum support tbc)	4,000

Any minor shortfalls (e.g. £4K) can be addressed in year with operational modification.

Value for Money

A £38,000 contribution (5% of service budget) levers access to the broad spectrum of activities and additional opportunities 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 and opportunities listed above.

Recommendation

The recommendation is that Schools Forum continues to support the Forest Arts Music Support Service with £38,000 for the 2015/16 financial year.