



**Volume 1, Issue 1**  
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# News from MUSE

MusE is the Music Educators Group which is chaired by Steph Dufty. 15 out of 18 Secondary Schools regularly work together to create events for their students and enjoy regular CPD for themselves. Mini MusE—the primary version currently engages just under a 1/3 of the Primaries.

Last month we saw the FIRST event devised by both groups. Black History Month meets Rock School - a transition event for primary students and a leadership event for secondary students. Forest Arts Centre hosted 129 Primary school pupils in years 5 & 6 along with their staff and 4 Secondary schools with their pupils leading the workshops. Particular highlights were the Rock workshop from Sheffield Academy, led by Mat Williams, where pupils buddied with the young students to reproduce a rock track in live performance. Streetly and St Thomas More worked together, led by Det-

ta Edwards and Matt Jones, delivering a combined string and ukulele workshop performing the track Good Riddance. Meanwhile Grace Academy gave a powerful vocal workshop focusing on Black History.

A member of staff at Brownhills West Primary summed up the event well: *"I just wanted to say it was an amazing day. The children got so much out of it confidence wise and experience. They were all impeccably behaved and the secondary pupils and staff teaching the children were fabulous. We definitely need more days like this in order for the children to explore any hidden talents."*

Upcoming events from MusE are The Big Orchestra on Feb 15th and The Big Sing on June 14th 2018. The MusE groups meet regularly after school at locations around Wasall.



Here is Jah-Von Grizzle-Francis from The Streetly Academy teaching a small group of KS2 pupils.

**Special points of interest:**

- **EVENTS**
- **FREE ACCESS TO CPD AND TUITION**
- **WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?**

## Have a Rocktastic christmas!



rehearsing for this years Christmas Vocal Spectacular in The A3 Arena. If you have not already got your tickets please contact the Box Office on 0300 555 2898.

16 Primary Schools and over 600 pupils are busily

If you are a Head Teacher reading this and

didn't know about it and would maybe like your school to be involved next year, perhaps you would like to come along this year to see what it is all about.... speak to Scott Hollins or Steph Dufty at the Music Education Hub (contact info on last page).

# Music Centres- it's still FREE!

Did you know....ANY and ALL of your pupils who play an instrument or sing can join one of our ensembles for FREE?



## MONDAY EVENINGS

Junior Choir (ages 7-12) 5.30pm—6.30pm

Youth Choir (ages 12-19) 5.30pm—7pm.

Chamber Choir (by invitation) 7pm—7.45pm

Contact Scott Hollins to book in pupils.

## TUESDAY EVENINGS

FAST Strings (beginners) 4.30pm—5.30pm

Apollo Strings (grades 1-2) 5.45pm—6.45pm

Phoenix Strings (grades 3-4) 6pm-7.30pm

Capriccio Strings (grades 5+) 4.30pm—5.30pm

Beaux Electrix (grade 5+) 6pm—7pm

FAB Woodwind and Brass (beginners) 4.30pm—5.30pm

Junior Woodwind (grades 1-2) 6pm-7pm

Brasstastic (grades 1-2) 6pm-7pm

Intermediate Wind Band (grades 3-5) 7.15pm—8.30pm

Senior Windband (grades 5+) 7.15pm—9pm

New Generation Jazz (grades 3-5) 6pm-7pm

Jazz @ 6 (grade 5+) 6pm—7pm

Contact Monica Hollins to book in pupils

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Junior Rock & Pop School (KS2 pupils) 5pm-6pm

Senior Rock n Pop School (KS3-5 pupils) 6pm-9pm

Contact Glen Taylor to book in pupils.

# Singing Festivals

This year our traditional Primary Singing Festival will be split into two in response to feedback from Primary schools in order to make it more accessible for the younger years.

There will be a **KS2 Singing Festival** in March where your school can showcase their work to other schools and take part in a vocal workshop led by James Maddison. In July the same format will follow for **KS1 & Reception** where songs and extension activities will be appropriate to the age and ability of range of the pupils.

KS2 Singing Festival week of 12th  
March 2018  
KS1 & Reception Singing Festival 3rd  
July 2018

This idea was developed in conjunction with the **Mini MusE** group and what they feel works best for your students. In 2019 the Music Hub aims to extend the vocal festival idea to one for Early Years involving pupils aged 3-5.

Booking forms will be sent into schools in the normal manner, generally via your music co-ordinator. If you feel you have missed this in the past contact **Glen Taylor** or **Steph Dufty** as soon as possible to make sure we have your correct contact details.

# MusE Has Buddies

Our Secondary Education group MusE has worked a **buddy system** or **peer supported CPD** for a number of years now. Most buddy support has been focused at KS4 and 5 with an emphasis on composition and performance.

So for example, moderation work for KS4 for BTEC, RSL and GCSE of various boards. Schools have worked in pairs or small groups between themselves.

Composition work at KS5 has been useful for schools that deliver A Level. One buddy group had a couple of visits to understand how to development a music tech suite and took advice on software and equipment.

We have had schools working together on vocal strategies and how to set up an maintain choirs, others who want to do the same with bands or orchestral ensembles.



Our needs and experience as music teachers is vast but we are not all masters in every area. Pulling on the teams knowledge in this way is hugely valuable.

If you feel your school would benefit from a buddy or peer support please contact Steph Dufty (see back page).

# Rock 'n' Pop Wednesdays

Every Wednesday night our purpose built, sound proofed, rehearsal studios come alive to the sound of rock and pop with students from all over Walsall. There are two Rock 'n' Pop Schools—Junior and Senior. The senior sessions are for all secondary school aged students and has been running successfully for years from 6-9pm. Pupils can come on their own and get assigned to a band or join as a band and have dedicated studio space in which to develop. Students learn song writing, mixing and engineering skills, record their band in the Pro Tools studio, and learn to hone their craft in their own particular direction; it is not just about performance.

There are regular points throughout the year when students get to showcase their work in a dedicated Rock

'n' Pop night. Sometimes themed, sometimes unplugged (acoustic session) and other times full amplification in the A3 Arena.

As with the other Music Education Hub ensembles, the Senior bands are totally free, subject to spaces. The Junior Rock 'n' Pop School (started last year for KS2/3), runs from 5-6pm on the same evening with specialist tuition on Guitar and drums. The small fee of £3 a week is payable ½ termly in advance.

If you have a band at your school who you think would benefit from this



## Open Arms at the National Rock n Pop Festival (NEC)

specialised tuition or an individual who would develop so much faster if they had a band to work with, please do contact the Rock 'n' Pop School manager, Glen Taylor, at [gtaylor@forestartscentre.org.uk](mailto:gtaylor@forestartscentre.org.uk).

# Big Orchestra organised by MusE

February 15th will see this years Big Orchestra at Forest Arts Centre. Now in it's 5th year, this event sees a number of Secondary schools come together to form a mass orchestra. Following rehearsals in their own schools, pupils come together for an intense day of ensemble rehearsal which culminates in a public concert on the same evening.

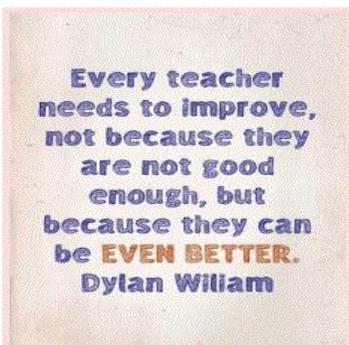
Tickets are available via Steph Dufty and just require a donation on the evening.

Pupils pictured from last year: Daniel Symon (St Francis of Assisi) and Chloe Callaghan on violin with Popy Wright (Shire Oak) on clarinet.



Pupils pictured from last year: Sean O Hara (right) and Olivia Maillard (left) from St Francis of Assisi and Hannah Stretton (middle) from Shire Oak.

# Staff CPD



In addition to short CPD sessions in the MusE network meetings, MusE has run a CPD day for Secondary Music Teachers for several years now. Always well attended from across the region, the day allows meaningful time for training on assessment, moderation, curriculum planning, new schemes and resource sharing as well as structuring music programmes for events the following year. This year's **MusE CPD is Friday July 13th.**

This academic year will also see the

first day of this kind for Mini MusE too. For our Primary teachers this will be a carousel of workshops covering training aimed at qualified music teachers as well as those appointed to teach music who are not musicians. Run by the MusE groups, led by Steph Dufty, this training draws on our in-region expertise and is therefore free. **Mini MusE CPD is Monday July 9th 2018.** The Music Hub is also planning a conference day attracting external trainers later in the year.



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HOME OF THE



Growing the Arts from  
Community Roots.

We're on the Web!  
[www.forestartsmusicHub.co.uk](http://www.forestartsmusicHub.co.uk)



Forest Arts Music Education Hub is the Music Hub for Walsall and resides in the Forest Arts Centre. We are managed by Walsall Council under Sports and Leisure and are funded by the Arts Council of England and your schools who buy services from us. We are supported by Forest Arts Centre in terms of reduced rates for rooms and auditoriums and enabling access to resources and spaces that only an Arts Centre can offer.

We are a team of 4 staff, with two of us part time, under the management of Neil Johnson who is Head of Forest Arts Centre. With us work a number of music educators who teach in some of your schools and run music centre sessions and lessons here at Forest.

For more information please contact anyone of the following staff:

Scott Hollins—[shollins@forestartcentre.org.uk](mailto:shollins@forestartcentre.org.uk)

Glen Taylor—[gtaylor@forestartcentre.org.uk](mailto:gtaylor@forestartcentre.org.uk)

Monica Hollins—[mihollins@forestartcentre.org.uk](mailto:mihollins@forestartcentre.org.uk)

Steph Dufty—[sdufty@forestartcentre.org.uk](mailto:sdufty@forestartcentre.org.uk)

## A Level at Forest Arts Music Education Hub

Forest Arts Music Education Hub started running A-Level Music as a weekly evening course from September this year. Our first cohort are off to a great start studying for 3 hours every week on Thursdays from 6-9pm.

We offer Edexcel A Level Music as a two year course and are looking for expressions of interest from students who may like to study with us next year to start a second cohort.

This option is not to replace what is in schools but to offer a solution if you are unable to teach A Level music for whatever reason, or perhaps you do offer it but it clashes with other subject choices that a particular student may choose.

£35 a week, payable termly in advance. If you are interested in further details please contact Steph Dufty on [sdufty@forestartcentre.org.uk](mailto:sdufty@forestartcentre.org.uk)

