

ARTS

PEOPLE

EXCELLENCE BY THE HOUR

ARTS PEOPLE PARTNER MAIL DECEMBER 2019

OFSTED 2019 FRAMEWORK

Like many with a passion for the value of arts education, we were disappointed that the new Ofsted framework explicitly supports the restrictive Ebacc measure. Nevertheless, below Key Stage 4, the opportunity and incentive for schools to promote the arts has significantly increased.

The new intent - implementation - impact framework for the curriculum is to be welcomed. It should reward schools that have a clear strategy for the arts. Arts People is keen to help schools as they develop their thinking in this area.

The framework requires that there is a 'broad and balanced curriculum at key stage 2.' Whilst 'In secondary education, inspectors will expect to see a broad, rich curriculum.' In pupils' personal development, inspectors will expect to see a 'willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities.'

We can now offer great tutors in music (most instruments), drama and visual art. We also offer primary school PPA cover, after school clubs and day workshops. All these will be relevant to growing the Arts curriculum.

GROWING AND THRIVING

Arts People is growing. We are now working in seven local schools: four in Bradford and three in Calderdale. Four are primary schools and three are secondary schools. All appreciate and welcome the Arts People model: carefully chosen, approved tutors, with the support of an organisation that is committed to the value of arts education and the right of all children to access that provision.

Holly Senior, the head of music at Beckfoot Thornton Academy told us: *"We have had a fantastic start to this academic year with our new instrumental teachers from Arts People. Our pupils are really enjoying their lessons and we've seen a bigger uptake from KS3. Communication between myself, tutors and Arts People is regular and positive."*

We also offer tuition to children who are learning at home and our new, Halifax based, Home Learning Heroes has been a great success. Saturday morning classes continue: small group tuition at great value prices. In all our work we are committed to excellence and opportunity. We have resolved only to grow as quickly as is consistent with that ethos and to keep our promise of maintaining prices as low as possible. 10% of dividends will go into our Arts People Foundation to support disadvantaged young people.

ONLINE PAYMENTS

Arts People now offer online payments; one school is already successfully using the approach. Pupils sign up directly with Arts People and parents and carers pay online at www.artspeople.co.uk. This is quick, convenient and removes both hassle and risk for the school. Families like it too.

Arts People absorb the costs of the system and prices are no higher than using cash or cheques.



LOOKING AFTER OUR TUTORS

Our tutors have to go through a rigorous, safer recruitment process to gain access to our approved list. Once on the list, we look to support them, improve their practice and help them to become more confident in delivering great teaching.

We do this by observation visits where they receive feedback on their performance, including, most importantly, tips for next time; joint observations with the school are offered. These visits are a chance for the school and Arts People to catch up face-to-face and the school will always receive a note of the visit detailing what was observed and discussed. Tutors also receive paid training, including for safeguarding, and will always receive a quick response to any concerns raised.

Schools too will always receive an early reply to any communication. If needed, we will come in to the school straight away.

All our tutors are practising artists or musicians. We require this. We think it makes the tutors brilliant role models for students considering making a career in the arts. It is great, therefore, to follow their careers in those spheres. A new album launch is particularly exciting!

THE ARTS CURRICULUM

We believe that an arts statement should be a part of every school's curriculum intent. The statement should reference the school's context and aims, but also the reasons why the arts are important.

A good way to start reflecting on this is to read the recent briefing paper from the Cultural Learning Alliance, 'The Arts for Every Child'. In her foreword, Moira Sinclair, Chief Executive of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation says: *"Every child should have access to arts and culture, and to the benefits that access brings. The arts are a positive force in society: children feel more confident in their ability to create, challenge and explore, to be part of society, and to make change happen. The arts empower children. They contribute to the development of all aspects of a child's potential and personality: studying the arts fosters creativity, innovation, empathy, and resilience. The arts enrich young lives, making them happier and healthier. Access to the arts is access to our national life, and it is a social justice issue."* We couldn't agree more.

The full paper can be found at:
<https://culturallearningalliance.org.uk/new-briefing-paper-the-arts-for-every-child/>

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE ARTS PEOPLE TEAM

Richard, Richard, Mel and Sarah thank you for all your interest and support and wish you a brilliant Christmas.