

ARTS

PEOPLE

EXCELLENCE
BY THE HOUR

ARTS PEOPLE PARTNER MAIL JUNE 2020

THE CHALLENGE OF COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic continues to create an incredibly demanding time for schools. This comment is written from home in the days immediately after the government produced a tentative plan for the easing of lockdown.

Schools have been asked to prepare for the possible return of pupils from 1st June when Arts People tutors will join other staff in trying to maintain the difficult (impossible?) balance between keeping children and themselves safe and ensuring a good learning experience. Arts People will support by being as flexible as we can. We know how challenging this is going to be.

During the last few weeks, we have produced remote learning resources and also supported by attending where schools have wanted that. We have begun to explore the possibilities of online learning and would welcome discussions with schools about how this might work.

One thing we are sure of: with many students out of the habit of learning, the role of the arts will be crucial in supporting attendance and motivating young people to rediscover a love of learning. Now may be the time to try one of our workshops!

TUTORS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

When you claim that you deliver *Excellence by the Hour*, you need to do so. At Arts People we understand that means we must find the very best tutors, nurture and develop them.

There are now nine Arts People tutors, but without any diminution in quality. All our tutors need to be excellent music or art makers, but also possessing of the right qualities to work with young people. We look for talent, character and personality – people who can relate to learners, engage them, then model and instruct with clarity and enthusiasm. It's a hard ask, and many have not succeeded in being selected.

Each of our tutors goes through a rigorous selection against strict criteria: an application must be accompanied by two supportive references where suitability and safety criteria are carefully checked. After that, we will audition and interview for the right to bid for school assignments. This is described as 'being on the approved tutor list'. Tutors are then matched to assignments, with each school meeting the tutor before the assignment begins. At each stage, safeguarding and the successful learning of students are foremost in our thoughts.

Our tutors are supported with ongoing professional development. They receive payment to attend meetings where methods and resources are discussed and ideas shared. Their individual needs are met by observation, feedback and discussion. Attention to quality falls naturally out of this process. Our schools are grateful and appreciate this distinctive aspect of the Arts People commitment to excellence.



SINGER SONGWRITERS AND ARTS PEOPLE

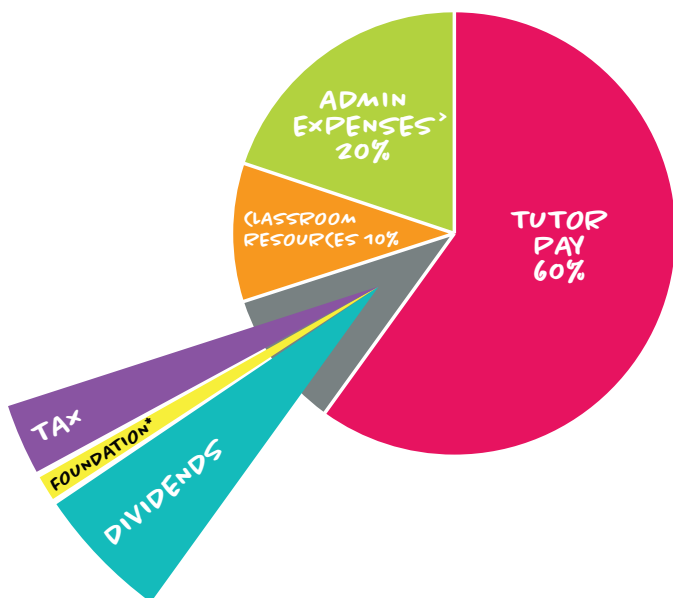
Our music tutors are always great musicians. We love it when any of them write and publish their own music. It brings another dimension to their teaching and is inspiring for the young people with whom they work.

We are delighted that two of our tutors have recently brought out albums. Henry Parker, who describes himself as a progressive/psych folk guitarist and songwriter, last year issued his great debut album, *Silent Spring*, which was described by Folk Radio UK in these glowing terms: 'Henry has found his path. Let us walk that way as well. Excellent.' We love it too!

Katie Spencer's latest album *Weather Beaten*, which Tony Haynes says, 'Blows in with a storm of fresh air, raising goosebumps,' is, a triumph of poetic folk music. We love that that experience can be brought into the classroom.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

We believe our tutors should be paid as professionals, but we have many other costs. The graphic below shows the breakdown of income and expenditure in our latest accounts.



* We are committed to put an amount equivalent to 10% of our dividends into the Arts People Foundation Fund which will be dedicated to support disadvantaged young people into music.

> Expenses include legal and financial costs, communication costs and tutor training.



MUSIC AND LITERACY WORKSHOPS

New for 2020-21 are our literacy workshops where students learn to write poetry by writing lyrics and setting these to music and performing them. Great fun, they are a way of engaging young people in key language learning in a new way. The first two schools to purchase the days will get a much reduced price in return for helping us refine the model.

NEW 'HEADTEACHER CHECKLIST'

We have produced a new 'headteacher checklist'. It sets out the wide-ranging Arts People offer: music, art and drama PPA cover, clubs and workshops; instrument tuition. Please share it with colleagues. If local groups of schools purchase hours, we can offer great deals.

TIMETABLING 2020-21

We understand that schools may want something different this year. We also appreciate that schools may find they have timetable gaps late on. We always appreciate knowing schools' needs as early as possible, but we will try to accommodate changes or late requirements. We may be able to meet September or October requests. Please ask.