

ARTS PEOPLE EXCELLENCE BY THE HOUR

ARTS PEOPLE PARTNER MAIL DECEMBER 2020

THE CONTINUING PANDEMIC CHALLENGE

This continues to be a very challenging time for schools. Ofsted, in their recent Covid Briefing*, noted challenges for, and responses from, schools that included:

Curriculum and learning gaps

Pupil absence

Workload pressures for teachers and leaders

Problems with supply

Changing guidelines

The current pressures are acute, but we noted the briefing's comment that whilst *'there are more widespread adaptations to the curriculum to focus on core subjects...it's important that these adaptations are short term and do not slide into a more corrosive, longer-term narrowing of curriculum.'* As cheerleaders for the arts, we have to agree.

In our support for the arts curriculum, Arts People is trying to respond to some of the issues facing schools. We have introduced online tuition, songwriting and literacy workshops and flexibility of, and additions to, tutor hours. We can offer all these to schools currently working with us and are looking forward to supporting schools as we enter the post-Covid period.

*COVID-19 series: briefing on schools, October 2020

SONGWRITING AND LITERACY WORKSHOPS OFF TO A GREAT START



Our new songwriting and literacy workshops were trialled this term, after a summer of planning this addition to our workshops portfolio. We are delighted at the response. The comment *"I would recommend this workshop for its links to both National Curriculum English and Music...Learning was clearly sequenced with high quality resources"*, from a Year 6 teacher summarised exactly what we were trying to achieve. With the pressures on the curriculum this year and probably beyond, we have designed these new Arts People workshops to be a time efficient and enjoyable way for pupils to build up their confidence in, and extend their understanding and knowledge of, both music and literacy.

The workshops run as a half-day or as a series of four, one hourly workshops, either in lesson time or after school. There are workshops already written on rhyming, similes, persuasive writing and narrative voice, but we would love to write more if asked.

At the end of the workshops, pupils will have a better understanding of the literacy focus, but they will also have been inspired by a successful singer-songwriter to appreciate music and write their own song.

Each workshop delivered by Arts People this year will rigorously risk assessed, with reference to DfE Covid-19 guidelines.

Please let us know if you want to know more.

NEW ARTS PEOPLE WEBSITE

After two years, it seemed a good moment to introduce a new website, to reflect the growth and development of the company and allow for easier payment for pupils and parents. Whilst we will continue our main focus on schools, we expect our individual tuition work to grow and the new website will reflect that. The website will go live over the holiday break.

ARTS PEOPLE ONLINE



During the pandemic, online tuition has been a great alternative to face to face teaching. Whilst it can never replace being in the same room, we have found this term that great learning progress can be made from online tutoring.

Our new website now has a page explaining our online learning offer: there is a short introductory video, a list of lessons offered and information about safeguarding. There is also a convenient, easy way to book a taster lesson and lesson blocks.

www.artspeople.co.uk/home-lessons

STRENGTH FOR THE FUTURE

After last year's strong growth, we were planning for another increase in our schools' footprint this year. In the event, with the schools' lockdown from March to July, we made the decision to suspend our marketing activities. It seemed inappropriate to be approaching schools when so many other urgent priorities were occupying leaders' and teachers' time. This meant we entered 2020-21 with the same number of school clients as the previous year, witness, we believe, to the satisfaction or current schools have with our service and their wish to stay with us even during difficult times financially.

Instead, we have developed our product range and will have even more on offer to schools in 2021-22, when we will be making the case again for the importance of arts in the curriculum.

OUR CURRENT PRODUCT OFFER IS:

- Instrument and vocal tuition for schools
- PPA and supply cover in music and art
- Art, music, cross-curricular and songwriting and literacy workshops
- Online (and face to face) instrument tuition

If there is anything else you would like to see us provide, let us know.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE ARTS PEOPLE TEAM

Richard, Richard, Mel and Sarah wish all Arts People friends and partners a great Christmas and a brilliant 2021.