



To all head teachers and music leaders in Northamptonshire schools

Dear Colleagues

21<sup>st</sup> November 2013

You may be aware that Ofsted published a report last Friday into the work of Music Education Hubs and that this was critical of the lack of impact Hubs have had in improving the quality of curriculum music teaching in schools. This has been picked up by the media resulting in some negative coverage over the last few days.

You can read about the Ofsted report and responses to it on this webpage:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/music/hub/Pages/OfSTED-Report-What-Hubs-Must-Do.aspx>

Ofsted's vision of the remit of Music Hubs is slightly wider than that expressed in the National Music Plan and the core and extension roles on which we report to the Arts Council. There is a huge challenge in meeting these extra expectations with no additional funding.

NMPAT as lead partner in the Northamptonshire Hub remains committed to working with partners to achieve the highest possible standard of music education for the children and young people of the County. We will:

- Continue to deliver the four core roles of the National Music Plan: First Access, progression routes, ensemble experiences and a vocal strategy
- Continue to deliver two of the extension roles of the plan: Instrument loan, high quality musical experiences in prestigious venues and with professional musicians.
- Work towards delivering the third extension role: CPD for curriculum staff in schools
- Invite all school music leads to our annual conference: Challenging Times, on Monday March 31<sup>st</sup> at Northampton Academy
- Work with schools to develop curriculum teaching where invited to do so
- Support and facilitate training for the development of curriculum work where required
- Broker discussions between schools where support from colleagues would be beneficial
- Develop an appropriate route to the Certificate of Music Educators qualification for non-specialist Primary School teachers with the University of Northampton

As part of our response to the plan we will be working with our colleagues in the other East Midlands Music Hubs to develop a region wide strategy, working with the University of Northampton. This will probably include an assessment of the state of music curriculum teaching across the County, an exercise that has not been undertaken for many years. We will contact you further about this and other initiatives.

In the meantime we remain available to discuss your needs at any time. The schools are the most important partners in the Hub and we look forward to working with you to meet Ofsted's expectations.

Yours sincerely

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