

Drum Works: Schools Projects

2024 Update

Using drumming as a tool to inspire young people creatively, give them confidence in their ideas and empower them to direct their own futures.

Drum Works promotes engagement in learning, encourages social cohesion and develops key skills in its participants. High-quality creative sessions led by experienced professional musicians enable participants from all backgrounds and all levels of musical experience to create something they enjoy and are proud of.

Opportunities to showcase this work at prestigious events actively demonstrate that positive action, hard work and commitment achieve amazing results. We bring students from different schools together to collaborate on these performances, generating a sense of belonging to a wider community and encouraging social cohesion across regional boundaries. Performance highlights have included Walthamstow Garden Party, the Royal Variety Show, BBC Children In Need, Hofesh Shechter & Antony Gormley's show *Survivor* and the first BBC Ten Pieces film.

We work with our partner schools to identify students who stand to benefit most from taking part, including those facing challenging circumstances, those with SEND and those with musical talent but no access to formal musical training outside the classroom. Our artist leaders build relationships with students over time, providing individual support and guidance for every participant.

"The Drum Works project is powerful and makes a difference to children's lives. It shows the power of the drum, and how this can be the glue that holds one person to another."
– Dame Evelyn Glennie, virtuoso percussionist



Walthamstow Garden Party

Impact

Drum Works participated in Youth Music's four-year research study *Exchanging Notes*, which explored the impact of music projects across the UK for pupils at risk of disengagement, low attainment or exclusion. The findings from the research, published in 2019, demonstrate that projects like Drum Works have the potential to **re-engage young people in education**, develop their **confidence**, **resilience** and **self-belief**, and create a more **positive attitude to learning**.

An independent qualitative research study conducted by Kantar TNS in summer 2017 found that Drum Works is effective at **inspiring creativity**, **building social cohesion** and **empowering young people** in the following ways:

- Individuals can develop their creativity and make music with Drum Works regardless of their previous experience and background.
- Participatory creative processes encourage students to share their own ideas and give them a sense of ownership, originality and pride.
- The participatory and inclusive environment fosters a sense of belonging and builds confidence in individuals.
- Individuals can experience personal achievement and excellence through performances, which can motivate them to strive for academic achievement.
- Students will form friendships across year groups, backgrounds and schools, expanding their social circle beyond their immediate environment.

The full reports of both studies are available to download at drumworks.co.uk/impact.

Evaluation

Participant surveys in July 2023 showed that:

86% consistently **enjoy** taking part in Drum Works

83% say they feel a sense of **belonging** to a community through taking part in Drum Works

79% feel their **musicianship** and **creativity** have improved through taking part in Drum Works

70% feel their **confidence** has improved through taking part in Drum Works

Staff from Drum Works schools report:

- Greater sense of **community** in the school
- Improved **interaction** across year groups and social groups
- Increased **confidence** and higher **aspirations** in participants
- Improved **attendance** and **engagement** with school life

"A shining example of what is possible when expectations are set at a high level and students are surrounded by excellence"

- Peter Romhany, former Head of Music at Morpeth School



Project Options

Full Drum Works Programme

- 30 weekly creative drumming sessions for four groups of up to 25 students (100 students in total every week)
- Progression routes for students into Drum Works senior ensembles and assistant programme
- Opportunities for students to collaborate with participants from other schools across east London
- High-profile performance opportunities at events programmed by the Barbican Centre
- Representation on the Drum Works Youth Board

Benefits

Our approach is effective at engaging young people from a range of backgrounds, and keeping them engaged. Students will have opportunities to collaborate with other Drum Works groups and perform at high-profile events, and will have access to progression routes through the Drum Works programme. Drum Works Leaders have a distinct role from school teachers; they provide role models and are able to build strong relationships over time that can help to support young people in their wider lives.

Cost

The annual cost of running the full Drum Works programme as outlined above is £15,750 +VAT. The project can be scaled up to include more pupils, or down by running fewer sessions, as appropriate for each school. We are happy to collaborate with schools on applications for funding.

As Drum Works is particularly effective for young people facing challenging circumstances, some schools are able to allocate pupil premium funding to the project. We can work with you to ensure that any pupil premium money that goes towards the project is used to support disadvantaged students.



Drum Works participants in BBC Ten Pieces

Half-term Taster Project

- Six weekly sessions for four groups of up to 25 students (100 students in total)
- Participants selected in consultation with schools
- A performance in school at the end of the half-term

Benefits

Music sessions will facilitate young people to compose rhythms based on music that inspires them. This approach encourages self-expression in a supportive environment while developing musicianship. Students quickly develop confidence in their musical ability and in their own opinions and ideas. Additional outcomes include improved ensemble playing and the development of transferable skills including creativity, confidence, social skills and team-work.

Cost

£3,750 +VAT, including provision of drumming equipment

Kick Start Your Own Drumming Ensemble

- Three half-days of taster sessions for students and CPD sessions for school staff in the first term, to kick-start the group
- An observation session and two hours of CPD for school staff in each of the following two terms, to keep the ensemble running effectively

Benefits

Get an ensemble up and running in your school, with staff receiving ongoing support from highly-experienced professional musicians to ensure the ensemble's continued success.

Cost

Year 1 - £3,000 +VAT, plus initial purchase of equipment (c. £3,500)

Year 2 onwards - £1,200 +VAT for termly observations and staff CPD sessions

One-off Workshops

Bespoke one-off workshops focusing on any area you would like your students to work on, e.g. composition, performance, ensemble playing.

Benefits

Workshops are tailored to provide specific learning outcomes for students, and can culminate in performances that raise the profile of music within the school

Cost

£750 +VAT for up to 3 hours and £125 +VAT for each additional hour. Includes use of our drumming equipment.

Further Information

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