

REPORTS ON GRANTS AWARDED

A selection of recent grant recipients - September 2016

OPENUP MUSIC

£7,500



South West Open Youth Orchestra is the UK's first regional disabled-led youth orchestra, providing an essential progression for talented young disabled musicians to take music to the next level. A grant in April 2015 supported the charity's pilot year activity, to develop accessible instruments using sophisticated technology which enable young people to play independently. As a result, the musicians have been able to take their

instruments home for practice. Recruitment has been a challenge due to low aspiration among disabled musicians, and the scarcity of orchestras in special schools. To aid recruitment, the charity developed a PR campaign tailored to promote the orchestra to young disabled musicians; three case-study films will feature members of the orchestra telling their stories. The orchestra is already challenging public expectations of what disabled young musicians can achieve, with publicity from the BBC, national and local press and social media. The orchestra featured prominently on BBC Radio 3's In Tune programme with Sean Rafferty during the national BBC Music Day in June.

GOLDHILL ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

£1,398

This charity on a Leicester housing estate is starting Forest School in a 1.5-acre woodland. Thanks to an ECT grant in June 2014, two staff members have been trained as Forest School practitioners. Training consisted of a full week at the Robin Hood activity centre near Sherwood Forest, followed by six months of delivering the programme supervised by a qualified Forest School practitioner. Once qualified, they delivered Forest School sessions throughout the rest of the year. This support will make a lasting difference to many young people.

ALTON COLLEGE

£1,500

A grant in December 2015 enabled this Hampshire sixth form college to buy a double bass and a bass clarinet - to be used by hundreds of music students over the coming years, enriching their learning and performances. The instruments will be invaluable to young people from lower income families, helping them explore a greater breadth of musical repertoire and gain important experience for future careers. Student Sam Carr, a member of the Surrey County Youth Wind Orchestra, said: "I have just been awarded a composition scholarship by the Hampshire Music Service and having a better understanding of different instruments like the bass clarinet will be really useful for this."

CHICKENSHED**£3,000**

This north London theatre company runs accredited BTEC, Foundation degree and BA courses in the performing arts, which are open and accessible to all - a significant number of its students have a disability or additional need. Its full-time courses are particularly challenging, and students require extra support to increase motivation and commitment to learning and to ease transition from one course to another. A grant in April 2015 ensured consistent and flexible support when required, with additional staff who can intercept students' issues before they become a serious barrier to education.

RIVER STEWARDSHIP COMPANY**£7,500**

This company provided three Sheffield primary schools with brown trout eggs, which the children reared and released into the river Don, giving the children a connection with their local waterway - 881 pupils were engaged in the project. The children were taught about trout and how to look after them, including testing water quality, changing the water and correct feeding regimes. After releasing the trout, some pupils took part in a river clean-up, part of their wider topic on rivers. One lesson learned for the project was the large number of pupils with English as a second language. In future, the education officer will use more visual clues and liaise with teachers to ensure the resources are suitable.

**PORCHLIGHT****£7,000**

A grant in April 2015 helped nearly 100 young people access support to improve literacy and numeracy - of these, 25 were able to start full or part-time work. This Kent-based charity supports vulnerable people with housing issues and those not in employment, education or training. Eighty per cent do not have a Level 2 qualification in English or Maths. The Learning for life project helps young people improve their skills, knowledge and qualifications.

STALHAM BRASS BAND**£2,500**

An ECT grant in December 2015 helped this north Norfolk brass band employ an education officer. With the decline in school music tuition, the band found it difficult to maintain sufficient numbers. Following a grant in 2011 the organisation successfully undertook a three-year pilot programme in which the Band took brass instrument training into schools. This training has now been extended into high schools with the help of the education officer. The

students are provided with instruments on loan, as a result of which they are able to progress from a cornet to a horn or euphonium as it becomes apparent which instrument best suits the student. Over the summer the young people and their tutors took part in a special weekend masterclass, led by a former Grimethorpe Colliery and Black Dyke player, which also gave the young people the chance to play together as a band.

ROOK LANE ARTS TRUST

£8,500

This charity in Frome, Somerset, developed a project with 17 local schools and family centres, thanks to an ECT grant in September 2014. Storywalks is a creative outdoor digital project which aims to inspire literacy skills in children aged eight to 11 - particularly boys. The project involved children in writing and geo-locating stories in the landscape, using screens and gadgets to encourage them outdoors to read, write and explore. The project was as much multi-sensory as digital - creative writing workshops were inspired by natural resources, and twilight sessions were held for the staff in the schools hosting Storywalks residencies. As a result of the training, the schools have invested in their own GPS-enabled iPads so they can create their own Storywalks, extending them into different areas of the curriculum.



PURCELL SCHOOL

£8,000

A grant in April 2015 provided support for a young pianist and singer, Mackenzie Kavanagh at the Purcell School for Young Musicians. Mackenzie has flourished musically - on her first instrument, piano, she was a semi-finalist in the BBC Young Musician competition. And she has been selected to play at two of the school's London concerts, in a chamber ensemble at the Wigmore Hall and as a soloist at Milton Court Concert Hall. Mackenzie's second study is voice - she has participated in the school production of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas. Her singing teacher commented: "Mackenzie continues to progress well with her singing. Her vocal quality continues to mature and she is capable of some beautiful, rich sounds in her middle register."

YSGOL Y CASTELL

£1,870



This school in Denbighshire, North Wales, installed interactive whiteboards into the junior classes thanks to an ECT grant in April 2014. The smartboards extend children's understanding of literacy and numeracy. Whole-class groups or pairs of pupils are involved in activities, offering children a multi-sensory learning opportunity to develop literacy and numeracy skills. Staff use the boards to prepare more interactive and motivational lessons for the children.

KILMODAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

£2,500

This school serves the remote communities of Colintrave and Glandaruel in Argyll and Bute, and has only 15 pupils. Because of the location and lack of access to cultural facilities, the school has developed arts and outdoor activities for the children. Thanks to an ECT grant in August 2014, a hands-on arts project explored the local landscape and heritage, specifically the Neolithic Chambered Cairn and the community-owned forest. Children took part in workshops with a craft maker learning about sketchbook working, experimenting with new materials and techniques and working on a large scale. Throughout the project, they produced maps, colour sketches, observational drawings and continuous line drawings. The project resulted in the production of an innovative, interactive multi-sensory piece of interpretation for the Neolithic Cairn.



NATIONAL TRUST

£9,744

The National Trust received a grant in September 2013 to develop a new learning programme at Hardy's Cottage near Dorchester. The cottage and woods' owners - the National Trust and Dorset County Council- have been working in partnership to develop the Hardy's Birthplace Project of which the learning programme is a part. Developing the extensive suite of learning materials required a longer period of research and testing than initially expected. New workshops will use Hardy's poetry and his landscape to promote creative and active learning, raising awareness of Hardy's poetry, encouraging children to engage in Hardy's landscape and to be curious about the natural environment.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

£2,500



A grant in August 2015 allowed CBSO's learning and engagement team to expand provision for children with special needs. The orchestra worked with two Birmingham special schools - Victoria School has around 130 pupils aged two to 19 with a wide range of complex learning and physical disabilities, while Chadsgrove School in Bromsgrove is a day special school for 120 pupils with physical disabilities. Musicians were trained to ensure activities of the highest possible quality had the most beneficial impact on those involved. The residencies offered the creative team of musicians and a freelance artist the chance to work

closely with staff and pupils over an extended time. Each visit comprised a half-day workshop led by three musicians, culminating in a live performance by either a CBSO violin trio or the Little Big Time Band, a six-piece mixed instrument ensemble which performs popular and classical music.

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

£2,500



This long-established choral society identified a need for a young people's choir. A grant in April 2015 supported the establishment and development of the Halcyon Youth Choir. Drawing inspiration from the Halle Youth Choir, the project encouraged youngsters to explore their potential in composition, conducting, managing and peer mentoring. At a launch day, composer John Rutter worked with 33 young singers from across Harrogate,

resulting in 18 paid-up members which the choir hopes will grow to 30 over the next three years. Apart from the weekly rehearsals, one of the conductors holds lead singing workshops at Harrogate High School, which the choir hopes will lead to collaborative work later in the year.

NEW BREWERY ARTS

£2,390

A grant in April 2015 allowed this arts centre to undertake an arts project with special schools. Mixed media artist, Rebecca Kimberley went into two special schools in Tewkesbury and Cirencester to introduce new art forms, techniques and creativity. Rebecca introduced pupils to felting, printing and embellishing techniques, as well as painting on textiles. She worked with 132 children with a variety of severe learning difficulties, using techniques that can be used the future by the schools' teachers. The workshops created an enduring legacy in the form of a large public artwork for display. Both schools encouraged groups of pupils to take part in curating and hanging for the exhibition.

STEMWORKS

£8,350

This not-for-profit organisation in Gloucester received a grant in October 2015 to support delivery of 15 renewable energy workshops in secondary schools. The workshop was designed to develop problem-solving skills and resilience, provide team working and to engage and enthuse students. The sessions highlighted the role of renewable energy in our electricity supply and the UK's changing energy mix. Students designed and built a wind turbine which was used to power the electric vehicles they designed and built. Of 641 students involved, two thirds would now consider STEM-based careers.



LAKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

£1,000



This school in Redcar adapted science units about plants and seasonal changes to become a spring term topic - the 'Secret Garden'. The children were introduced to the neglected, overgrown space in January. Through literacy and science activities, pupils explored the potential of their garden, and using sketching and ICT they redesigned the space and came up with initial costings. In early spring, with new ECT-funded gloves and trowels, the children began weeding and

tidying. Not only did the grant allow them to learn how plants grow and about seasonal changes, it will also enhance their learning and development over a number of years. Weeding and keeping the garden tidy has proved physically demanding but great fun - the children have been eager to get outside and enjoy nature. Through harvesting their own vegetables, pupils began to appreciate fresh produce and where healthy food comes from - some of their produce will be used in the school kitchen. The school writes: "This grant has created a wonderful opportunity for our pupils and staff to work outdoors and appreciate nature whilst enhancing our school's teaching and learning in a practical context".

SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS OF GREAT BRITAIN

£10,000

With the help of this grant in April 2015, the society has supported five PhD scholars who have made significant progress. Sophie Dentzer from the Courtauld Institute of Art is currently finalising her dissertation on decorative vaulting in 14th century England. Karey Draper at Cambridge University will provide a survey of 20th century temporary wartime buildings, which can still be found all over Britain. Horatio Joyce at Oxford University is examining the Gilded Age clubhouses of New York City, an English institution widely adopted by American upper classes at the end of the 19th century. Sydney Ayres at Edinburgh University is researching the collaboration between the 18th century architect Robert Adams and his brothers in this Scottish family of architects and builders. All the scholars have found the financial support invaluable, allowing them to concentrate on their studies and improve the quality of their research.

LONDON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

£3,000

The Music Junction project brings together vulnerable and disadvantaged young people from widely different backgrounds in four established hubs in Kent, Berkshire, Waltham Forest and Havering, giving them the opportunity to make music as a group. Each year the project has its own artistic theme - for 2015/16 this was Heroes and Anti-Heroes. 121 youngsters from 14 schools and organisations took part in creative music workshops and instrumental sessions throughout the academic year. The team ensured that each participant could create a variety of high-quality



sounds on their chosen instrument so they could take part in a new composition at the showcase concert. The team works with partner schools and organisations with little or no music provision. One school now gets regular instrumental tuition from its local music hub, while another is planning a school orchestra, and schools are sharing resources, performances and expertise. The grant has allowed the orchestra to give many children a life-changing experience.

NORTH HUDDERSFIELD LEARNING COMMUNITY

£900

This group of seven primary schools in Kirklees was set up to increase their capacity to meet children's needs. An ECT grant in February 2015 allowed pupils to work with experienced tutors from the Lawrence Batley Theatre on a drama/performing arts project. The children were supported to develop, write and rehearse a short play based on the theme 'Our Community'. Over three days, pupils took part in activities designed to develop speaking and listening skills, teamwork and performance skills, and they created a 30-minute play which they performed to an invited audience. Thanks to the project, one participant has applied to participate in the Young People's Main Stage production with the Lawrence Batley Theatre, and some children were invited to audition for a part in the Shakespeare in Schools festival.

ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

£10,000



The school was awarded a grant in April 2015 to support the primarySTEPS programme - a comprehensive, creative introduction to dance and ballet for seven to 11-year-olds, focused particularly on children in deprived areas in Dagenham, Blackpool, Mansfield, Swindon and Bury-St-Edmunds. In 2015/16, 1,522 children enjoyed six introductory ballet workshops in the autumn term, followed by a demonstration performance by Royal Ballet School students. At the end of the workshops, 250 children were invited to join primarySTEPS weekly Level 1 after-school dance classes. Classes continue for three and a half years as children progress to Levels 2 and 3. A few children with exceptional talent win a place at the Royal Ballet School's White Lodge, while others progress to the Junior Associate programme of pre-vocational dance training and to local Centres for Advanced Training. Before the programme began, a

teacher from each participating primary school attended a CPD day at the Royal Ballet School designed to equip them to support workshops and transition of some children into after-school classes. A parent has written: "The dance teachers were fabulous. Not only did they instruct in a fun and challenging way but also had excellent control of the students. I now understand that ballet not only requires discipline of the body but also of the mind... I am particularly glad to see such positive inclusion of boys and applaud the primarySTEPS initiative for this."

CRICHTON CARBON CENTRE

£3,000

The centre received a grant in April 2015 towards the Carbon Busters schools project which delivered progressive education in climate change, resource efficiency and sustainable development to 581 pupils and 46 teaching staff in Dumfries and Galloway. Practical low carbon alternatives were demonstrated, leading to a carbon reduction plan for the schools - this included planting food crops and trees, improving wildlife habitats, recycling and reducing waste, walking and cycling to school and reducing energy consumption. The centre also ran three teacher training sessions. The level of interest from schools has highlighted that, although they are interested in the subject and feel the need to teach it, staff need support to increase confidence to teach the subject and ensure it is embedded in the curriculum. A school commented: "The programme was pitched extremely well. The pupils certainly took many important messages from the workshops".



MATHS ON TOAST

£1,450

Thanks to a grant in August 2014, this charity collaborated with theatre director Sarah Punshon to devise 'We're Stuck'- a new piece of interactive theatre about robots, mistakes and the value of persistence in maths. The team researched with teachers and educationalists and contacted mathematicians, scientists and people who use maths in their jobs. Working with a games designer, they created several games designed to get participants struggling and making mistakes in exciting ways, developing characters and narrative inspired by the research. At some sessions, the team were encouraged to see mostly girls, which is unusual at a maths show - the team think theatre may help to counter the gender imbalance in maths. The project has given pupils a different way of thinking about the skills they need to succeed, new ways to untangle problems and a new value of 'perseverance' as opposed to 'ability'.

LITTLE GREEN SPACE

£1,652



This organisation in Matlock, Derbyshire ran a project at a primary school near Bakewell to transform an unused allotment into a green space with wildlife habitats and sustainable features. Thanks to the grant in June 2015 for workshops, tools, seeds, fruit trees and bushes, children were able to grow vegetables and learn how to sow, plant and grow crops using a range of child-friendly tools. The organisation has delivered a series of gardening and wildlife workshops covering a full year of fruit and vegetable growing, a wildlife audit,

identification of wild flowers and insects, construction of a bug hotel and discussions on the importance of creating habitats and developing biodiversity.

ROUNDHOUSE

£7,000



The Roundhouse received Trustees' support in April 2015 for the Street Circus programme with local schools and pupil referral units, which fused hip hop and street dance with acrobatics and circus skills. Six new Street Circus sessions were incorporated into Year 7 PE at Haverstock School, and 11 participants from the pupil referral unit achieved an AQA Unit 1 Award. The scheme proved so successful that the co-ordinator is working with Roundhouse tutors to

develop an Advanced Unit 1 AQA Award - 11 participants are already signed up for this next year. Despite substantial funding cuts, the partner school and pupil referral unit have agreed to continue the programme for two years.

NEWSOME HIGH SCHOOL

£2,500

A grant in October 2015 allowed students from the Hearing Impairment Unit to participate in the 'Animating Nature' project, an image-rich animated documentary. The project started with an exploration of the local environment, specifically the woodland area, in the company of an artist. Students participated in a range of creative and environmental activities, including observational drawing, data collection, photography, sound recording, time-lapse video and mark-making. The drawings were used to collaboratively create the backdrop of the animation set, and students then worked with musicians on the soundtrack. A really valuable aspect of the project is that the artist and musicians introduced the students to materials, technologies and approaches that are not available as part of the curriculum. The project inspired students, especially the older ones starting to think about careers, to consider the creative industries. The school says that the whole project was a wonderful experience for the students.

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON MATHEMATICS SCHOOL

£10,000

A grant to King's College Maths School in September 2014 allowed continuing and extending outreach work with talented young mathematicians from London. The maths school provided a challenging and rewarding education for 16-19-year-olds who demonstrated a particular aptitude for maths and physics. The outreach programme targeted students from state schools lacking high-class maths



provision. 250 students enrolled, attending fortnightly evening sessions over two years, plus a five-day summer school. The lessons encouraged students to see maths as more than just tests - rather, as an intellectual activity involving abstract thinking, logical argument and an appreciation of structure. There has also been a further maths course for teachers, followed up with in-school visits to help staff put the ideas into their own contexts. Thanks to the ECT grant, the outreach project has led to improved GCSE

results for high-attaining students across London and improved subject knowledge and pedagogy amongst the group of teachers, resulting in another three years' funding.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CIRCUS ARTS

£7,500

This charity received a grant in April 2015 for its Circus Arts 4 All outreach programme. The centre worked with young people in London and from as far afield as Aberdeen and Cornwall, providing quality circus teachers for all 438 participants. The rising popularity of participatory circus arts allowed the centre to reach a wide range of children and young people, providing the highest quality of teaching across the programme. In London, the centre partnered with four schools introducing circus disciplines such as acrobatics, juggling, tightwire and stilt-walking.



After a successful year, the centre is expanding its programme to reach a wider target group. Thirty young people from around the country took part in a summer school, training in aerial, acrobatic and equilibristic skills as well as hoop diving and stage combat. A three-day event attracted groups from all over the country for specialist workshops, and attendees left with new ambitions and aspirations.

NORWICH THEATRE ROYAL

£8,000

The Norfolk Schools Project introduces children to opera - with the help of professionals, the children write, direct and ultimately perform their own adaptation of an opera. For this project, the children studied Tchaikovsky's classic fairy tale Sleeping Beauty. Social, psychological and financial barriers, as well as problems of access in rural Norfolk, prevent children from accessing the arts, particularly opera, dance and classical theatre. This project is delivered by working with teachers, the school curriculum and professional artists, and includes workshops in music, singing, drama and stage craft, as well as professional development workshops for teachers. The project team spends an initial half-day in each school introducing children to the themes and music. Then students improvise scenes based around the themes and begin to work on storylines. Musicians and drama directors revisit the schools for a week-long residency, helping the children develop their compositions. Finally, all the schools perform their work on stage at the Theatre Royal. A teacher writes: "By taking part in the project, I now feel so much more confident to use music, drama and dance with the children."

OASES

£6,152



OASES is the trading name of the charity North East Environmental Networks. An ECT grant in September 2014 enabled a pilot education programme across County Durham for students approaching school leaving age in heritage countryside management and crafts. Four schools worked with charity staff to decide which practices and crafts sessions should be covered. One school chose orchard design and planting, tree management, apple pressing, constructing a willow 'fedge' and willow baskets. The second chose the history and art of drystone walling and

woodland management, while the third school covered tree felling, thinning and coppicing and how to split wood. The fourth school learnt about willow coppicing and habitat pile creation, created willow hurdles, weaved and installed willow hurdles. All schools were very enthusiastic about the programme and two plan to buy in additional heritage skills sessions.

NMC RECORDINGS

£2,500

This small national music charity preserves and promotes and best of today's British classical music. A collaboration with the Science Museum and Aurora Orchestra resulted in six leading composers creating a modern-day 'Pictures at an Exhibition' piece inspired by the Museum's collections. A grant in December 2014 allowed the secondary school students to engage with new music and science through a composition project. A composer and a movement director/choreographer worked with students to explore a creative visual and aural world. Following a visit to the Science Museum to hear pieces performed by the Aurora Orchestra, students devised their own performance, creating five new compositions. The project also included a series of primary school pop-up workshops at the Science Museum involving 205 pupils. Following a tour of the flight gallery, the children worked on text and melodic ideas for a new song - in the process they developed skills in text creation, composition and improvisation, working alongside inspiring musicians and composers.



BUGLIFE

£1,500

This charity received a grant in April 2015 for the Tansy Beetle Champions project. The Tansy beetle - also known as the 'Jewel of York' - is a rare, beautiful, iridescent beetle whose common name derives from the Tansy plant on which it often feeds. One of Britain's most endangered insect species, it is only found along 45 km of the River Ouse near York. In this project, 331 pupils at three Yorkshire primary schools learnt more about the beetle, its lifecycle, why it's so rare and how they can help ensure it continues to thrive. Following a seed-planting session, the children tended the Tansy plants which were planted out along the riverbanks in the summer term. The charity has been working to research and develop an education pack which it will trial in local primary schools. It also ran an event at the York Children's University - 'CU in the City' evening - conducted a bug walk with some young friends and gave an introduction to the Tansy Beetle and tansy seed planting sessions with the Clifton Beavers.

PETWORTH COMMUNITY GARDEN

£2,097



This not-for-profit organisation in West Sussex has been working with Duncton Primary School since 2012, running after-school horticultural sessions using the school garden. An ECT grant allowed the garden education co-ordinator to build on the success of, and demand for this provision by offering weekly sessions during school term. The children learned about organic horticulture through hands-on gardening, games and activities which also encouraged skills across the curriculum including numeracy, literacy and art. Children also learned about wildlife, composting and recycling and caring for the environment.