



B Sound Transition Project - Summer 2009

"I learned that I can sing and I can play the keyboard. The songs were really good. The bits I enjoyed the most were performing, learning new songs and listening to B Sound performing their songs. The week was amazing!" Participant Summer 2009

Partners

The Hive, Shrewsbury,
Charlton Secondary School
Burton Borough Specialist Arts College
Telford & Wrekin Creative Arts Team / Telford & Wrekin Music

Project Detail

B Sound is a transition music project which aims to encourage young people to play music together and to teach them how to perform in bands. A typical B Sound music week will consist of band-building, singing and performance techniques, learning songs, an introduction to different musical instruments, and performing in the end-of-project showcase performance.

The transition from Primary to Secondary school is often the time when there is a significant drop-off in music-making. This project is aimed at the year 6 and 7 age-groups to encourage them to participate in music-making, help them to gain confidence and self esteem, as well as enabling the year 6 pupils to familiarise themselves with their new school – making the transition from Primary to Secondary a far less daunting prospect.

The projects at Burton Borough and at Charlton were designed to engage all learners regardless of musical ability. Every student participated in the showcase at the end of the week for friends, family and invited guests. The showcases were very impressive; the level of dedication, mutual support, encouragement and talent amongst the young people was incredible and heart-warming.

Among the songs they performed were;

- Hey Jude by The Beatles,
- Wild Thing by The Troggs,

- I Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor by The Arctic Monkeys,
- Sweet About Me by Gabriella Cilmi and
- Valerie by The Zutons/ Amy Winehouse.

Benefits

- Every Child Matters Outcomes: Enjoy and Achieve, Staying Safe
- Increased participation in cultural offer
- Increased transferable skills/gaining new skills for producing cultural outputs
- Having fun
- Making new friends
- Getting familiarised with the Secondary school environment
- Learning new skills in music-making and performance
- Developing skills in music-making, performance and singing with professional musicians
- Enhanced awareness of one's own talent

Comments on the Project

Parents:

“Both my sons enjoyed their week. I thought the performance at the end of the week was great and the guys from B Sound were brilliant with all the kids, giving them plenty of encouragement and praise. My boys got a lot out of the week and would definitely do it again”.

“Oliver thoroughly enjoyed himself at the rock school – he liked the chance of doing something different from sports type activities – although I did think it was a good idea that they had a chance to go and play outside for a bit at lunchtime; for some fresh air and to let off steam. Oliver would like to attend again in the future at some time, so please come back to Burton Borough. Newport doesn't have that much to offer for summer clubs so this was much appreciated”.

“I really enjoyed the performance, as did my 2 year old (he was the one counting them in at one point!) I was amazed at how well some of the kids picked up new instruments. My eldest son really seemed to enjoy the week, save for not getting to do some Green Day songs. Thank you for your time and hopefully we will find where you are at next year”.

Music Leader

“Some of the students hadn't played before or were at a very basic level, so it was rewarding to see how much they progressed during the week.

Most of the guitarists started bringing in their own guitars, amps etc. and were very keen to practice at home and to continue playing after the week had finished”.

School teacher

“We've had a few music workshops at this school but we've never seen our students this engaged! We're very pleased with this week and would love to have B Sound back”.
Member of teaching staff at Burton Borough



“It gives you a confidence boost really. It was great working with musicians. I'd like to do other stuff like this when I come here in September.”

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