

July 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

Call to Action

I'm sure that you are aware of the government's intention to reduce public spending over the next four years. This means that direct government funding for music services and music education may be affected from April 2011.

There is currently a national campaign in support of music education led by the Music Education Council, the Federation of Music Services and the Incorporated Society of Musicians. They are encouraging all Music Services to enlist the support of their key stakeholders, and have drafted a template letter to be sent to local MPs.

As a parent/carer whose child has benefitted from musical opportunities in Enfield, we are asking for your help.

How can you help?

- Please send (or email) the attached template letter to your local MP*
(please remember to insert the name of your MP as appropriate, put your name and address at the top and sign it)
- If you prefer, you and/or your child could write a more personal letter to your local MP
- Ask other members of your family or friends to support the campaign - a copy of the template letter is available to download from www.enfieldartssupportservice.org.uk

Also enclosed for your information is a fact sheet, "10 things you should know about Enfield Arts Support Service" which sets out the important work that EASS does.

Thank you in advance for your help with our campaign.

Yours sincerely



Kim Hember
Manager of EASS

*Local MPs

Enfield North – Nick de Bois (email: nick.debois.mp@parliament.uk)

Enfield Southgate – David Burrowes (email: david@davidburrowes.com)

Edmonton – Andy Love (email: andylovemp@aol.com)

, MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Date:

Dear

Enfield Arts Support Service - Your Local Music Service

Young people's music making in the UK sets the standard for the rest of the world and Enfield Arts Support Service (EASS) is crucial in delivering music education in the London Borough of Enfield.

Music education is key to improving standards in the London Borough of Enfield with national research showing that music improves student attainment in English and Maths as well as Music. As an example, research has shown that students who have studied Music can remember 17% more verbal information than those without musical training.

Our world class music education system is also supported by the public. Polling conducted by YouGov and the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM) demonstrates that 91% of the public back music education in schools with more than 75% backing the current funding level.

In the current economic climate, music services are being placed under more and more pressure, and yet the services they provide are more and more important to the country.

Music services are not just crucial in promoting academic attainment in our schools. They also help generate one of the most successful parts of the UK economy. Ten per cent of the UK's GDP is derived from the creative sector; the only sector to grow during the recession.

If you can commit to supporting Enfield Arts Support Service, which is the borough's music service, please reply to this letter to let me know.

We hope that you are willing to support EASS's work and campaign for the future of music education in this country.

Yours sincerely,

10 things you should know

about ENFIELD ARTS SUPPORT SERVICE

- 1** Music is working – approximately 13,700 children, young people and adults are taught to play and sing by EASS each week
- 2** Music Services are the back-bone of music education. Without EASS few children would have instrumental and vocal lessons
- 3** EASS has over 140 trained, qualified instrumental and vocal tutors working with children to attain the highest standards in and through music education
- 4** Enfield Arts Support Service works with children throughout their educational life, fostering a culture of rigour and aspiration, helping them progress on each step of their musical journey
- 5** EASS works with partnership organisations to maximise musical opportunities for all
- 6** EASS provides all-inclusive musical opportunities, reaching socially excluded children and young people with Special Educational Needs
- 7** EASS identifies and nurtures exceptional talent
- 8** EASS runs over 20 out-of-school music groups for all ages and levels of ability, including orchestras, bands, choirs, gospel choirs, music clubs and theory classes
- 9** EASS gives approximately 23,000 children and young people the opportunity to perform in concerts and events each year
- 10** Enfield Arts Support Service is a vital part of what makes Enfield musical

Enfield Arts Support Service
making music make a difference

www.enfieldartssupportservice.org.uk
020 8807 8881

