

Jamelia backs school singing plan

Singer Jamelia is helping a government drive to increase music-making in England's primary schools.

She is launching a "sing up" campaign to weave singing into the school curriculum.

There is £30m of new funding for singing and £40m for new instruments, part of a £332m three-year investment.

This includes a year's free music tuition for every primary school pupil in the early years, plus choirs, orchestras and other ensembles.

As part of this there will be a web-based songbook and a termly singing magazine of ideas for teachers.

Jamelia said: "I'm so excited to be involved with the 'sing up' campaign and can't wait to get kids singing again.

"Singing in a class is something I got a great deal from as a child - it really helped to build up my confidence and taught me how to better express myself."

She wanted all children to have the same chance.

"It's crucial that kids today learn how to find their voice and realise how much fun they can have through singing."

Singing ambassador, composer Howard Goodall, said: "We already know that young people who are lucky enough to learn music and sing from an early age develop better social skills, memory, ability to listen and have more confidence."

He added: "Singing, in particular, is brilliant.

"It's a positive, life-affirming activity that builds a child's self-esteem, promotes team-work irrespective of age, gender, and background, celebrates diversity, facilitates self-expression, and is just plain fun."

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