



Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
Westminster
London, SW1P 3BT

Tel: 0870 0012345
Fax: 020 7925 6000
info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk
www.dcsf.gov.uk

09 July 2009

Dear Partner,

CELEBRATING MUSIC DURING 2009/10

This week is Shine Week 2009, and I am taking advantage of this exhilarating celebration of young people's talents to contact you with news of exciting plans for the next academic year. A high profile national campaign to give **every child the chance to get more from music** will launch during September 2009, and run throughout the 2009-10 academic year.

England is a world leader in music education and the number of children learning about, with, and through music is always growing. The percentage of children at Key Stage 2 learning a musical instrument through large group or whole class tuition will have increased from 8 percent in 2003 to around 34 percent in 2009. And over 70 percent of primary schools have signed up to Sing Up, the programme that aims to help every primary school to be a 'singing school'. The number of opportunities for children and young people to join a music group – from choir to rock, orchestra to street dance – is expected to rise to 45,000 by 2011.

Your organisation has strong links into the children's music and culture sector, and I know that you and your colleagues share my belief in the tremendous value of providing musical activities for young people. Because of this belief, the Government has been investing in music for over a decade, and in particular we have made a commitment to invest £330m from 2008 through to 2011 to improve music opportunities for more children and young people. Not only is music fun and enriching, it has also been shown to provide countless additional benefits for children. Taking part – whether singing, playing an instrument, writing lyrics, dancing, or working behind the scenes – can inspire creativity, improve concentration skills, encourage motivation and determination, and build social and life skills.

A campaign which unites everyone in celebrating, extending and developing participation in music and other forms of cultural activity will provide a national spotlight for all the superb work schools are already doing. I hope it will also provide and inspire national direction, leadership and commitment, bringing schools, communities and families together to further enjoy the magic of new and diverse types of music.

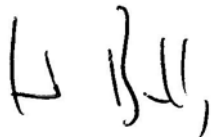
I understand that your organisation will be developing plans for the upcoming academic year, and hope that you will support my commitment to music by collaborating with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to help drive young people's participation in music.

I am aware that you may have already been in early discussions with my Department colleagues about potential partnership opportunities. The Department will be running a programme of briefings and detailed discussions of specific engagement opportunities during August 2009. A full public launch – revealing all branding – will happen during early September 2009.

Our ambition for the year is to open up unprecedented opportunities for the Department, and young people themselves, to work with a diverse mix of professional musicians, DJs, orchestras and performance artists – and not just in terms of encouraging young people to perform. Activities such as learning what it takes to manage a music production, or write lyrics, could be ideal ways for young people to participate in music in new ways.

I look forward to working in partnership with your organisation to develop exciting and inspiring opportunities for young people to experience music during 2009-10.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Balls,' with a comma at the end.

Ed Balls,
Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families