

**Autumn Term Minutes for the Music Educators Group
for Primary Schools in Walsall: Mini MusE**

Venue: Watling Street Primary School

Dates: 23rd & 26th Sept 2024

Agenda:

1. Apologies & Welcomes
2. Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Darbar Music – Teaching Northern Indian Classical Music in the Classroom
5. Hub Update
 - 5.1 BCMH
 - 5.2 Events
 - 5.3 Training
 - 5.4 Music Centre
6. AoB

1. Acceptances & Apologies

Present:

Steph Dufty	Walsall Music Ed Service	Lydia Farnell	Walsall Wood
Andrew Smith	Beacon Primary - CHAIR	Matt Nicholls	Meadow View
Bev Cullen	Oakwood & freelance	Melissa Whitehouse	The Radleys
Ceri Jones	Alumwell Infants	Phillipa Wooding (nee Mills)	Rushall Primary
Emily Keedwell	St Anne's	Rachel Tucker	St Giles
Georgia Sims	North Walsall	Raj Sandal	Hillary
Kirstie Smilie	Butts	Ruth Crowson	Walsall Music Ed Service
Liz George	Hillary	Suzanne Norman	Watling Street
Luke Wilson	Lindens	Zowie Rook	North Walsall

Apologies:

Alicia Gindhay	Goldsmiths		
Becci Summers	Leamore Primary	Naomi Randle	St James
Bupinder Thiarra	Caldmore	Nicola Day	Fibbersley
Helena Smith	Bentley West	Sam Perry	Moorcroft Wood
Jennifer Wilson	Parkhall Infants	Sarah Barrington-Brookes	Cooper and Jordan
Liz Hodges	Blackwood	Sharon Houton	Leighswood
Michelle Wilkes	King Charles	Tony Orbell	Pheasey

2. Minutes

2.1 Minutes from the Summer term were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 AS to upload videos all videos from Jan meeting to the Facebook page. Reminder: **Walsall Music Teachers and Leaders** for others to join.

3.2 SD asked for view on the Music Survey. Feedback:

- Too many semi colons (columns would be easier)
- It's very useful to be able to print out and prep
- Despite it being a long process, useful to get the data and see what characteristics the students have and where the gaps are.

4. Darbar Music - Teaching Northern Indian Classical Music in the Classroom – CPD Session delivered by Darbar, alongside Liz George and Raj Sandal from Hillary Primary

4.1 Darbar Music presented to the group.

- A scheme to learn Indian Music on the keyboard (or Ipad)
- Generally a lack of instruments in primary classrooms ; therefore used garage band app – bonus for using IT in music
- Started as a Primary school resource and now extends to KS3 & 4
- Web based programme – 66 lessons
- Some schools use as a club/enrichments activity
- Looks at technique and posture for piano/keyboard playing as well as 'the notes'
- Has a visualiser on screen as well as the video of playing – quite slowly paced – good for primary.
- Headphones are needed if using keyboards/ipads. Raj has created a worksheet to help with finding the notes.
- Great option for playing piano (one scheme)
- ALSO teaches Northern Indian Classical Music with another scheme – Introducing the Raga – understanding what a Raga is at the same time as learning a western scale. Includes improvisation. More creativity than a straight performance piece.
- Top tips : have the resources ready before they start. Keyboards/ipads and headphones. Useful to have the resource on video who is 'teaching' and you can focus on behaviour.
- Video is on teacher screen on loop and pupils can then have a guided practice with their headphones and work at their own pace.
- Liz and Raj have made knowledge organisers and worksheets to help them with guided practice. Including putting the notes on the stave so pupils can connect their prior knowledge to this new knowledge. Hillary work with years 4, 5 & 6.
- Great resource to fill any non-specialist teaching gaps.
- Can use as bite size chunks or a 45 min lesson each week – whatever works with your timetable and preference.
- Found children who they would never have identified as keyboard players.
- Idea to use keyboard in classroom at the front to come and play to the class.
- Includes examples of Indian Music played on Indian instruments and western (e.g. sax)
- Found this resource/genre promotes peace in the classroom 😊

- Ragas have different qualities/characteristic and the ragas that have been selected in this scheme are the most relaxing ones to link in with mindfulness and calm.
- PRACTICAL SESSION 😊 – omms, singing raga scale, playing scale, rhythm exercise and transferring to piano.
- Very well thought out scheme culminating in a fixed composition performance of which pupils can complete as much or as little as they are able. Recordings of final performance is on the website on piano as well as on saxophone and also an interpreted performance on sitar as well as an improvised version.
- Cost - £100/yr licence for schools; £4.99 for parents for year sign up (so can use at home) – very good to set a limited task to work on at home. Raj has set homework with this – crib sheet to use on their iPads at home. Area band is free on an iPad.
- Can do free sessions on Teams with Darbar Academy to training all your staff also.
- Free trial on website at the moment: email harpal@darbar.org if you would like to sign up.
- Also do festivals – recorded by Sky Arts. And live classes for Indian instruments and vocal: darbar.org
- Darbar would welcome feedback and suggestions on their product for future development.

5. Hub Update

- 5.1 Steph (SD) confirmed the launch of the **Black Country Music Hub (BCMh)** on 1st Sept. New name for Walsall Music is now Walsall Music Education Service (dropped the word Hub - WMES) – new logo at top of this document.
- 5.2 **Events list:** previously attached as an appendix here. Since the meeting, WMES website has been updated and there is now a tab called *Upcoming Events* – all listed there with hyperlinks to booking info where appropriate. SD highlighted (a) Piano Spotlight on 25th Sept and (b) High Scorers Concert on 16th October. Info and tickets for both can be found on WMES website and Arena website. SD also talked about the benefits of Composing to Pictures which other schools echoed – half the places have already gone for this so please so get in quick. Again, see the website under the Schools tab: www.walmused.org.uk
- 5.3 **Training:** Charanga – we have a change of trainer and SD needs to set up sessions for this year. Asked for requests and the group suggested composing and Yu Studio. **SD to contact Charanga and arrange.**
- 5.4 **Music Centre:** SD explained WMES have started a 3rd Music Centre on a Thursday evening at Blue Coat Academy 4pm – 7pm. There are currently two ensembles: as senior string quartet and a beginner orchestra. Any interested students – do get in touch.
- 5.5 **Rock Stars Walsall Rock Choir** ended term with around 15 singers, would welcome more: junior choir, free to all in years 3 – 6, every Wednesdays in term time at the Arena & Arts Centre: 4.30 – 5.30pm. All juniors welcome. No auditions.

6. AOB

- 6.1 Fibbersley to host the next meeting where Nicola will be showcasing her Classroom Gamelan: Mon 20th Jan & Thurs 23rd.
- 6.2 Set dates for Summer meeting at Lindens primary: May 19th & 22nd. It was decided to focus that meeting on assessment. Luke will demo his floor books, **other teachers that**

would like to share their assessment strategy, please do get in touch. The more we can share the more purposeful it is for all.

- 6.3 Watling Street offered to host again next Sept and the focus will be composing. Suzanne will share what Watling street do through the year groups from EYFS – Yr 6 and Bev will share the ENO project (also good CPD).
- 6.4 It was also discussed to rebook Rainbow Rhyme for a future session – perhaps on cross the midline, resources and parachute practicals. **Any other ideas and suggestions gratefully received. Please contact Andrew or Steph.**
- 6.5 Liz and Raj shared a Sing Up resource they have created: **A Global Celebration of Gratitude** FREE TO ALL. To be used as a harvest assembly that is more diverse.
www.singup.org

Next meeting

Fibbersley Park Academy
Noose Lane, Willenhall WV13 3BB

Host – Nicola Day

Focus – Classroom Gamelan

Monday 20th Jan & Thurs 23rd Jan 4.30pm – 6pm