



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 Headteacher,

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.

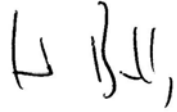
I believe that learning to play an instrument, singing in a Choir, or taking part in a musical performance can inspire creativity, improve concentration skills, encourage motivation and determination, and build social and life skills. This is why the Department for Children, Schools and Families is investing over £330 million in improving music opportunities for children and young people, through to 2011.

A campaign that 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 hope that you will support my commitment to encourage as many children and young people as possible to participate in music; that you will maintain music as a priority for your school during the upcoming academic year; and that you will take the opportunity to bring your school's musical successes to the attention of a wider audience.

Details of what will be happening, where, when, and how to get involved will reach you in early September as the year of activity launches. Expect unprecedented opportunities to work with a diverse mix of professional musicians, DJs, orchestras and performance artists. From learning to DJ, to playing in a classical ensemble, to writing lyrics and learning about production, there will be something for everyone to help find the music within them.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Balls'.

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