

Greetings!

Autumn term is often the busiest time of year in music departments, with many opportunities for young

people to take part in performances both inside and beyond the school gates. Some of the young people at your schools may have also been involved in the **Leicestershire Music's** performances at this year's Christmas lights switch on where live music added festive cheer to the proceedings.



This year we have two new Secondary Leads working with **Leicestershire Music** on Wednesdays and Fridays; **Lucy Mitcham** (Lucy.Mitcham@leics.gov.uk) - Head of Music at John Ferneley College in Melton Mowbray, and **Liz Olnier** (Liz.Olnier@leics.gov.uk) - Head of Music at The Winstanley School in Braunstone Town. Their task is to extend and develop support to secondary schools, and they are doing so through a number of strategies:

1. **Reinstating Network Meetings.** There will be meetings across the county from January 2023 which will be an opportunity to discuss music education, share good practice and connect with colleagues across schools. The aims and structure of the meetings will be more varied than in the past, as there will be the established area meetings alternated with KS4 groupings where we are also aiming to have attendance from exam board representatives. More details will follow once confirmed.
2. **Music Quality Mark.** Lucy and Liz are available to come out to you in schools to review the Quality Mark offered by **Leicestershire Music**. This is a useful method of providing SLT with evidence of the strengths within your department as well as appropriate professional development targets. The Quality Mark is **free**, and a supportive process. You can read more about it [on our website](#), then email Liz or Lucy to arrange a visit.
3. **Informal School Visits.** If you would like support with a specific area of curricular or extracurricular activities, Lucy and Liz are able to visit schools, or have an online meeting, on Wednesdays and Fridays. This could be a brief chat or a longer conversation depending on your availability and needs.
4. **Online Toolkits.** There are two **free** toolkits with useful resources and guidance. We are currently revamping the online secondary toolkit, however the [singing toolkit](#) is up-to-date and available for immediate download. Please do feedback with anything you would like to see included.
5. **Sharing Good Practice CPD Sessions.** New **free** initiative this year! Colleagues are invited to lead or attend a Sharing Good Practice CPD Session. If leading a session you will identify a focus and date and time to open your classroom to a small number of colleagues from other schools to attend, allowing time to discuss either in-person or via email (for instance) afterwards. If you are an attendee then you will book a place through the hub website. The hub will facilitate the organisation of each session, which leaves you to focus on leading music education in your classroom. Please get in touch with anything you would like to share! It can be a specific focus, such as peer assessment, or a broader focus, such as increasing the participation of students who are in receipt of Pupil Premium.
6. **Instrument Hire.** The charges for instrumental hire have been reviewed to have flat-rate fees per instrument and the option to 'bulk hire' at a reduced cost. You can view the charges and request instruments by filling in [this form](#).

Authentic Experiences Coming Up This Year

- 1. Royal Birmingham Conservatoire & Leicestershire Music Secondary Schools Ensemble Development Programme.** This is an exciting collaboration between the RBC and LM where 8 Leicestershire schools will have the opportunity for their orchestras to work with musicians from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire over this academic year. To apply you will need to briefly outline participation in your current school orchestra and the projected impact of taking part. Please refer to the email sent by Sharon Jagdev Powell for more details or email her at sharon.jagdevpowell@leics.gov.uk.
- 2. Leics Sing Day!** Key stage 3 afternoon workshop and evening performance on Wednesday 29th March 2023 at De Montfort Hall with a cappella group, Sons of Pitches. There is cost of £60 for schools to take part. You can sign up through our [website](#).
- 3. Leicestershire Music Youth Ambassadors.** We are looking for new Youth Ambassadors aged 16-25 to get involved and help shape the experiences of young people involved with LM. There is an online meeting on Tuesday 29th November 2022 at 6pm. Please forward [this link](#) to young people who may be interested in gaining ambassador experience so that they can book their free ticket to the meeting, which will be led by Craig Thurlow.
- 4. Leicester International Music Festival Lunchtime Concerts 2022-23.** Please follow [this link](#) to this year's lunchtime concerts programme taking place at Leicester Museum on New Walk in Leicester. The standard of musicianship is high and the organisers are welcoming to school groups. These concerts are not associated with **Leicestershire Music**, but are too good to be kept a secret!
- 5. Meet the String Family!** Try out string instruments and enjoy live music on Saturday 10th December 2022 11:00am-12.30pm at Leicester Museum on New Walk. Tickets are £1 and can be booked [online](#).

Please look out for email updates from Lucy and Liz - as well as other opportunities that are being offered by **Leicestershire Music** - and get in touch via email with any feedback or questions.

Warm Regards,

Liz Olnier & Lucy Mitcham

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Why not follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **Twitter** and **Youtube** using **@leicsmakemusic** - You can also find **Leicestershire Music** on LinkedIn

