

Soundbeam Project

Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service has an offer of support for all SEND settings to develop a high-quality music provision. This offer has included free musical opportunities and CPD to all primary and secondary schools with a Designated Specialist Provision (DSP) whether it be a SEND unit, Hearing Impaired unit, SLCN unit (Speech, Language and Communication Needs) or other specialist provision.

Schools across Leicester City and Leicestershire have access to a range of opportunities, including instrumental workshops, singing projects and Sound Beam sessions, led by Aimée Harrison, a SEND consultant at LSMS. Spring 2019 saw an exciting Sound Beam project taking place at Gartree High School, with a group of students from their SEND provision and Hearing-Impaired Unit.

The initial visit to the school helped to plan the specific aims of the project with a follow up visit to train staff on how to set up and use the Sound Beam equipment to enable continued use of the Sound Beam in between the workshops.

Three workshops, led by Aimee, took place over a half term. Students were introduced to Sound Beam and were encouraged to explore new sound worlds. Sessions quickly progressed and linked with work that students were exploring in English and Humanities.

Students used images and text to explore mood and context which then linked to existing sound sets on Sound Beam to create soundscapes. Students then developed this further to create their own sound sets through experimenting and exploring a range of live instruments and recording composed sounds.

As students' confidence increased through exploring new sound worlds on Sound Beam they gained confidence in exploring other instruments. One student said, *'I enjoyed learning about different sounds and making my own music up. There is nothing I hate about this project. I liked it and would like to do it again!'*

Students shared a sense of enjoyment and excitement throughout the project. Comments made included, *'I liked it because it was fun and made me feel happy and excited. I enjoyed playing with the instruments'*

Many students demonstrated a wish to continue their work with Sound Beam saying, *'It was a really cool experience and wish we had more time'*

Staff members felt that, through using Sound Beam, students were able to engage in learning more fully. One member of staff said, *'The sessions were very inclusive and those students participating were able to let loose and really express themselves, in a way I've not seen some of them do before. It was fantastic as the music helped them not only express themselves but also visualise different scenarios and settings; something one of the autistic children [...] really struggles within a classroom setting'*.



If you would like to discuss how a Sound Beam project could be used to enhance your students musical learning, please email LSMStraining@leics.gov.uk