



WELCOME TO ARTSMARK MONTHLY



Hello!

I'm Abi, Education Programme Manager at Festival Bridge. I look after our Artsmark programme - so if you've attended one of our Development training/support sessions, or received feedback on a Statement of Commitment or Impact, chances are you've encountered me along the way!

DON'T MISS OUT

Important Updates

Introducing 'Artsmark Reboot' sessions for schools whose Artsmark journey has paused since their Development Training Session due to unforeseen circumstances such as the pandemic or change in staff. Attend an online 90 min twilight session to refresh your Artsmark process and get back on track. [Details on the Festival Bridge website.](#)

Do you have big ambitions and small budgets? Don't miss these [Fundraising for Schools](#) online sessions to explore fundraising and grant applications Wed 15th Sept 4-5pm and Wed 29th Sept 4-5pm. [Details here.](#)

QUALITY PRINCIPLES: PARTNERSHIPS SPECIAL

[Edition 7: Partnerships Summer Special](#)

With so much great work taking place year on year across all of our Artsmark settings and a whole host of organisations and individuals, it was especially hard to pinpoint just a couple to highlight for this Partnerships Summer Special!

The key to working in partnership is establishing long term authentic experiences throughout the curriculum, that go beyond just artists practitioner delivery to pupils. To articulate the depth of the relationship and the impact this has on teaching and learning, talk to me about impact evaluation, or look at the Education Endowment Foundation resources on DIY evaluation.

Congratulations to:

- **Ormiston Victory Academy**, Norfolk, for their Platinum Award
- **City of Norwich School**, Norfolk, for their Platinum Award
- **Somerlayton Primary School**, Suffolk, for their Gold Award
- **Leverington Primary Academy**, Cambridgeshire, for their Silver Award



Image credit: Peter Marsh / ashmorevisuals

SPOTLIGHT: THE QUALITY PRINCIPLES IN PRACTICE WITH...



Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds,
working with 13 Suffolk Primary
Schools

How have you seen the quality principles brought to life with this partnership?

The power of the *Tiny Plays, Big Ideas* project was that it says to every child, 'you have something important to say'. It is so empowering for a child to be told that their experience of the world is unique and interesting, and that only they can tell their story.

Every child on this project wrote a play (a huge achievement in itself), and a selection were then performed (unedited) by a team of professional actors on the Theatre Royal stage, to an audience of pupils and teachers. Many children managed to write a play which not only followed a dramatic structure, but also explored a complex topic such as climate change or friendship. For us, the most important aspect was that each child was free to write about whatever they wanted to write about. We didn't impose a theme or any restrictions on their creativity. We just gave them the tools to tell the story they needed to tell.

What recommendations would you give to Artsmark schools looking to develop how they work in partnership with artists and arts & cultural organisations?

ONE Dream big

Our benchmark is always: 'Is this going to inspire someone?' If the answer is 'no' then it's not worth doing.

TWO Build your team

If you want to effect meaningful change in your school, you're going to need to build a team. A cultural organisation can be a vital partner to help you imagine the change you are looking for, but you should also gather a team around you of people (teachers, TAs, Senior Managers, parents and Governors) who understand the value of creativity and can help you to achieve your ideas.

THREE Collaborate

Bring artists in early and allow them to shape the project. If you design your project and then bring in artists to deliver it, then you are already limiting their ability to be creative. A key way to help you with this process is through working with your **Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP)**. They will be able to help you to build exciting and dynamic partnerships with your local arts and cultural community.

With thanks to Owen Calvert Lyons, Artistic Director/CEO, and the team at Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds

How have you seen the 7 quality principles brought to life with this partnership?

Into Opera has started a creative revolution to get more people 'into' opera. The purpose of the charity is to tackle the perceived and actual barriers that might prevent potential audiences or participants from having the opportunity, means or inclination to access this art form.

Offering children high quality, empowering and immersive cultural experiences has been at the heart of this partnership. Opportunities have included:

- Performing alongside orchestras such as Britten Sinfonia and highly acclaimed opera singers
- Working with industry professionals including internationally renowned set and costume designers, lighting designers, stage managers, directors, librettists, poets, composers, and choreographers

Into Opera puts children at the centre of experiences, thoughtfully crafting exciting, innovative and inclusive projects to empower children's voices. The positive social impact of this collaboration has been undeniable. Improvements to children's self-esteem, resilience, confidence, language development and mental well-being are amongst the results this collaboration has inspired. Into Opera's work continually inspires school staff to advocate for the arts.

What recommendations would you give to Artsmark schools looking to develop how they work in partnership with artists and arts & cultural organisations?

ONE Embed working in Partnership

Don't fall into the trap of the relationship being an 'add on' to your school's offer. Instead, commit and embed the relationship into school life, the curriculum and the community.

TWO Value each other's expertise

Work together at the planning and delivery stage of activity. As a result of this close collaboration, school staff feel confident to ask for help and advice. The partnership is strong between Into Opera and Sprowston Junior because each organisation **inspires**

the other, value what each bring to the table, and seek out each other's opinions. The relationship is a committed one on both sides.

THREE Share your Ambitions

Mutual respect has only increased between organisations over the years, along with trust and ambition. Shared goals and expectations were agreed from the outset and this was paramount in enabling Sprowston Junior to jump in head first (out of their comfort zone to begin with), to start a journey that has brought empowering rewards for the whole school community.

With thanks to Genevieve Raghu, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Into Opera, and Daisy Watts, Sprowston Junior School.

Get in touch: info@into-opera.org.uk



Image credit: Peter Marsh / ashmorevisuals

Thanks for reading - see you next month for our final issue!



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Bridge Organisation
Working with Arts Council England
to connect young people with great
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