

Arc Teachers Forum Minutes

18th January 2006

Apologies

Kevin Bailey
Rebecca Jenkins
Tony Gears
Kim Burns

Attendees

Kevin Parker
Neil Walker
Carmen Thompson
Mick Dunne
Nicky Spencely
Gill Gilbert
Anne Tighe (Redcar Community College)

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

1.1 Minutes were signed as a matter of record

2 Matters Arising

2.1 Transport – 1.1

CT contacted Youth Service to follow the lead concerning a system of transport for young people and instructed to call Marc Mason. **CT to find out about The Norton School bus. ATF to generate ideas**

2.2 Progression Routes – 1.2

KP has joined a steering committee established with Teesside Uni, Riverside College and Middlesbrough College looking at the establishment of a 3 year top up to the current Foundation degree in Event and Performance Arts and the creation of an undergraduate programme leading to a BA (hons) in Performance Practise (working title). He will keep this group updated on developments.

2.3 Professional Development – 2.1

CT to organise a PD day which involves a tour of Arc and the facilities, with an extended talk about the performance spaces, outreach options and programming. This PD can be supported by the Btech Diploma Resource. **CT to speak to GG to have PD as first session of Primary Teachers Forum.**

2.4 Partnership Working – 3

KB and RJ to devise ideas on working together and forward to CT. CT to organise attendance to staff meetings to talk about Arc and creativity. KB to deliver talk on TEEP.

2.5 Needs identified within Schools – 4

CT met with BO of Conyers school and organised for Comedy and Drama workshops to support Drama GCSE.

In response to the need for workshops to increase skills in performance techniques KP has devised options for a drama festival (discussed in more detail below).

CT has contacted learn2work regarding a careers evening for the arts, this is becoming a high priority as there is now more pressure on teachers to 'advertise' their subjects. **CT to follow up discussion with Laura Langridge, head of performing arts cluster, regarding a careers day which involved role models.**

2.7 Technical Theatre Workshops

AT reiterated the importance of technical theatre workshops for her drama group, which was supported by all members. AT mentioned that it would be of particular relevance for the inclusion unit students who have behavioural problems.

CT to create flyers for adult and young people's workshops and explore possibility of getting funding.

3 Evaluation

CT to have follow up conversations with ATF members regarding evaluation methods. This discussion highlighted the following. MD stated that evaluation is part of the creative process and therefore should be inbuilt into the whole project. The skills creativity generates need to be focussed on. There is a ripple effect when creativity is introduced to learning and the impact can be measured in the parents and community at large, therefore the boundaries of the evaluation need to be delineated.

Feedback relating to the teachers forum: MD of Our Lady and St Bedes stated that with Arc his school would not have applied for Artsmark (of which they were awarded Silver), nor would they now be in the process of applying for Specialist Arts College Status. Another significant outcome of the forum is the link forged between Abbey Hill School and Our Lady and St Bedes, Abbey Hill school have arranged for a printing press to be on long term loan to Our Lady and St Bedes, thus saving £500 for other resources and increasing the resources for their school.

KP to send social impact studies to all ATF members via email.

4 Advertising in Schools

CT to send posters and flyers for new courses to ATF members to place in display areas and hand out in registers (technical theatre and restyle especially). CT to find out about OLSB school publication.

AT and NS suggested that taster sessions for their students would be very useful and that they would organise transport for the first session. This taster group could have a tour and a familiarisation session to arc, they could then become the Young Ambassadors for Arc within their school. Perhaps this taster group could be from the school council, or be the members nominated for Arc Youth Board so that they develop a relationship with Arc. **CT to develop this idea with KP and NW then present to ATF for discussion.**

CT and Marketing and Communications to devise a welcome pack for ATF schools which includes flyers etc.

5 Programming

5.1 **ATF members to let Arc know as soon as possible if they would like to book Doo Cot or Sakoba.**

5.2 **KP to seek to book Trestle Theatre Co for Autumn if possible**

6 Drama Festival & Upskilling Workshops

The drama festival was well received as a means of raising the standards of kids performances. The suggestions for the format of the festival included master classes, whereby the actor – director would work intensively with a small number of students whilst others observed. The actor suggested was Philip York.

The most appropriate timing for these workshops for Y11s would be prior to GCSE exams (February) if the primary aim is to refine performance skills.

Alternatively weekly workshops run during school time / after school group would be suitable for Y10s, which could run at any time apart from mocks / careers week / etc.

A drama festival which would comprise of workshops leading up to a performance event, roughly following the Shakespeare in Schools model, would also be beneficial. AT to get back to KP regarding the most appropriate

timing for such an event.

KP to refine and present to ATF for discussion

7 New Writing North

In order to increase the opportunities for new playwrights in the area new writing north are searching for ways to create platforms for them to perform their work in front of a professional panel. This opportunity will be opened up to new writers in schools. **KP to update on progress.**

8 Folk Works

KP aired the offer from Folk Works to run workshops. the general feeling was that interest would need to be generated by a charismatic figure due to students lack of knowledge. **AT to contact KP when she has spoken to the Vin Garbutt Group at RCC.**

9 Vacancy

A new position has been created for a Community Arts Development Officer for the Parkfield and Mill Lane area.