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5 December 2003

Dear Headteacher

### **Gifted and Talented Programme**

In line with the Norfolk Education Development Plan 2002 – 2007, the Norfolk Music Education Service is working with all appropriate partners to ensure that we provide appropriate opportunities to the needs of our gifted and talented musicians.

Jessica Berners is our member of staff responsible for designing and developing our programme for the gifted and talented, and she will be creating and updating a database of our work and the pupils that have participated.

We would like to invite you to identify anyone in your school who you think would benefit appropriately from our programme of events 2004 - 2005. Jessica will then contact your gifted and talented co-ordinator to discuss the activity and the opportunities available.

In music we need to consider two broad categories of pupils, those who are receiving specialist instrumental provision and those who are not. For instrumentalists the more readily available course of action is to ask their instrumental teacher if they think the pupil is gifted. As a general guide the following may be useful.

#### **Instrumental pupils**

- may not be grade 8 but they may be!
- have a natural feel for the instrument
- are enthusiastic, ask questions, take initiative with their learning
- sparkle on the instrument in a way they don't perhaps when standing still
- have a technique or rapidly developing technique – perhaps more rapidly than others for their age or period of learning
- have a clear realisation and understanding of music and performing appropriate to their level of learning
- may demonstrate some inner understanding of playing an instrument beyond that which you would expect for their age and period of learning



For pupils who do not play a musical instrument, the national curriculum guidance is helpful as a starting point.

Pupils who are talented in music are likely to

- be captivated by sound and engage fully with music
- select an instrument with care and then be unwilling to relinquish the instrument
- find it difficult not to respond physically to music
- memorise music quickly without any apparent effort, be able to repeat more complex rhythmical and melodic phrases given by the teacher and repeat melodies (sometimes after one hearing)
- sing and play music with a natural awareness of the musical phrase - the music makes sense
- show strong preferences, single-mindedness and a sustained inner drive to make music
- demonstrate the ability to communicate through music, for example to sing with musical expression and with confidence

Pupils more often show their musical talent through the quality of their response than the complexity of their response. Musical quality is very difficult to define in words, as music is a different form of communication to language. The closest we can get is to say that it 'sounds right' and that skills and techniques are used to communicate an intended mood or effect. Musical talent is at least as much about demonstrating a higher quality response *within* levels as about attainment at higher levels. Musical talent can be seen at every level of attainment. Pupils who have a talent for music show a particular affinity with sound.

If you identify any pupils that you feel would benefit from a gifted and talented programme I enclose a form for you to complete and return to Jessica at the West Norfolk PDC. I have also enclosed an application for our Young Musician's Platform concert series that will launch our gifted and talented programme. If you need to make further copies please do so. Alternatively if you would like to discuss any pupils and their particular needs with Jessica please feel free to contact her at the West Norfolk PDC, or myself at NPDC.

I would like to take the opportunity to assure you that we will only contact the pupils you identify through school and not directly at home. It is important that we are able to work in partnership to meet the needs of our musically talented.

Best Wishes

Maureen Hanke  
Head of Norfolk Music Education Services

cc Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator

## Gifted and Talented

School

Contact Person

Name of pupil/s	Instrument / Comment

I would like to arrange a short meeting with you. Please contact me:

Telephone

e-mail

Please return to Jessica Berners at WNPDC