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## **Application to the Great Trust Requesting £1,200 for Future Stars' Furthering Talent programme in Anytown**

### **Summary**

Future Stars would like to request a grant of £1,200 to help support up to 53 children taking part in our Furthering Talent programme in Anytown. As you'll recall from our previous application, Furthering Talent supports the musical development of primary school children with emerging musical talent from low income families and aims to effect significant change in how the musical potential of these young people is identified and supported across England.

### **Introduction**

We're Future Stars (FS). For over 20 years, we've supported talented young people from low income families, helping them to overcome financial and social barriers. Whatever the genre, whatever the style, our strategically-targeted programmes help young musicians from across the UK to grow, flourish, and fulfil their musical potential. Our programmes are:

- **Identifying Talent:** training teachers in how to spot young people's musical potential
- **Furthering Talent:** targeting and sustaining young people's emerging talent through strategic support
- **Awards:** funding young talent UK wide through annual grants and tailor made help for individual musicians
- **Innovation and Research:** leading new thinking and action on talent development

### **The need**

At FS we believe that all musically talented young people should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential, whatever their background. However, the truth is that many families across the UK are struggling to meet the high costs of supporting their children's talent. Though the state currently funds all young people at Key Stage 2 for up to one year's free instrumental tuition in their class, once this initial funding runs out unless children can afford to continue they are forced to stop. This excludes many children from low income backgrounds, many of whom are also facing a range of challenges in their lives. If their potential is not spotted and they do not continue to practise or get other crucial support, they never get the chance to flourish and make the most of their talent.

All Furthering Talent participants are financially disadvantaged - the average gross family income of children we support is £20,000. Many participants also face a range other challenges including disabilities (both visible and invisible), behavioural issues, living with chronically ill siblings and living outside the family home to escape domestic violence. Moreover, many beneficiaries are in schools that the Music Education Hubs have limited engagement with.

Anytown has particular music education needs. Its continuation rate of children learning a musical instrument is just 4%, well below the national average of 27%. The Somewhere Music Education Hub, of which Anytown is a part, acknowledges that there is a regional issue which means that only those children who can afford to are able to receive musical provision. Furthermore, many of the current Furthering Talent participants are in 'red rated' schools showing that the programme is able to reach children even where the Hub has limited engagement.

### **How Furthering Talent helps**

Through Furthering Talent, we aim to effect significant change in how the musical potential of these young people is identified and supported across England. We partner with local Music Education Hubs and instrumental teachers to identify and nurture talent. Each young person on the

**Helping talented children to reach for the stars**



programme benefits from a wide ranging programme of individually tailored support for at least two years:

**Instrumental tuition:** each child has 30 minutes weekly tuition.

**Personalised support:** each child works with their instrumental teacher to agree an Individual Learning Plan and set goals for their musical progression. Each student is given an allowance of £150 to support them in achieving these goals.

**Support and mentoring:** beneficiaries access opportunities provided by professional musicians and national and local musical organisations. These introduce them to diverse music making experiences – from rap workshops to opera at Glyndebourne – and ensure they are not musically isolated.

**Get Togethers:** termly events are held to enable beneficiaries to further their knowledge and skills, to connect with each other and to involve the families of young people with the project.

***“The project has taught the children not to be afraid to improvise, and that they are all able to do it! It has also given them a fantastic opportunity to sing on the stage at the Brighton Dome – they did it very confidently too!”*** Teacher Beth Oliver, after a Get Together with the Jazz Warriors.

**Arts Awards:** pupils on the programme work towards a nationally recognised qualification, the Arts Award, to certify their skill and achievement. Where appropriate they take other music exams too.

**Local Co-ordination:** communicating effectively with young people and their families to ensure that their musical needs are fully met can be difficult, particularly when many participants are living in challenging family circumstances. A Local Furthering Talent Co-ordinator is therefore engaged to work in each area to co-ordinate communications on a local level between all stakeholders: their role is crucial to Furthering Talent’s success.

Furthermore, there are also opportunities for the music and instrumental teachers involved in Furthering Talent to develop their skills:

**Practical Progression:** a peer led professional development programme by and for music teachers which encourages the national Hub network to replicate and embed the Furthering Talent model by supporting the workforce to identify and support young people’s musical potential where it might otherwise not be spotted. The main strands are film resources and an in-person training element.

**Teachers’ Forums:** all participating instrumental teachers are invited to a termly Teachers’ Forum in each region. The forums provide a space to discuss their students’ progress and share ideas on the development of the programme. Teachers also explore new approaches to their teaching e.g., the implementation of Youth Music’s quality principles. They also feed new ideas into the Furthering Talent model and our teacher-led Practical Progression strand of films and professional development. External facilitators/speakers are also invited to share and develop practice.

### **The impact**

Furthering Talent will deliver an improved quality of music delivery for children and young people; an increased musically inclusive practice in Music Education Hubs; improved musical progression achieved by children and young people in challenging circumstances; an increase in the young musicians' confidence and agency and more parents and carers being involved in supporting their children’s musical lives. The current continuation rate for participating children is 83% which is very pleasing, considering the financial and other challenges they face.



For example, a ten year old Furthering Talent participant from a small market town in Anytown, who can only be identified as 'J', lives with his mother who is currently unable to work full time due to ill health, but who is actively involved with the local school, enjoys singing and is very supportive of her son's musical life.

In Year 4, J had whole-class guitar lessons for a year. The teacher, who knew about Furthering Talent through Entrust Music and Performing Arts Services, spotted J's potential and nominated him for the programme. He joined Furthering Talent in September 2016 and started individual lessons on electric guitar. The whole family is supporting his progress. His grandfather has an extensive vinyl collection and has made him a CD of music to listen to. His mother takes him to Lichfield every Saturday morning to play in the guitar, keyboard and drum ensemble and he has played in public with this father.

These are the children who benefit from Furthering Talent: young musicians from low income families who need that extra support – both financial and in a range of other ways – to truly reach their potential.

### **Evaluation**

FS is working with an external consultant, Phyllida Shaw, to evaluate the programme's development. The young musicians and families participating represent a diverse range of musical, educational and cultural backgrounds and experience. They all have different starting points and their journeys with Furthering Talent vary in style and speed. Our data collection methods will reflect this diversity. We aim to collect good quality data in a way that is as useful for the participant as it is for FS. The Individual Learning Plan will be reviewed termly and each beneficiary's individual progress and experience will be at the heart of our evaluation. The key stakeholders are: young people, parents/carers, teachers, Hub leaders and Local Co-ordinators and data will be collected via observation, group discussions, interviews, surveys and meetings.

### **How the Great Trust can help**

Furthering Talent currently supports over 200 children from Otherplace, Elsewhere, Townton, East Westington and West Eastington. To support even more talented young musicians, the programme is now entering a transformative phase which will aim to reach at least 450 children across 15 Music Education Hub regions in England between April 2024 and March 2026. Children living in the ten Music Education Hubs joining the programme will begin participating gradually over this timeframe. This has been enabled through a significant grant from Youth Music's Fund C programme.

**However their grant is only partly funding the programme so we still have considerable funds to raise. We're seeking your help for 2024/25 to support up to 53 children in Anytown.**

A grant of £1,200 from The Apollo Foundation would be hugely appreciated and make a considerable difference to these talented young musicians.

We hope that The Apollo Foundation will consider supporting the exciting next phase of this programme and give talent a chance. Thank you for reading this proposal and we hope to hear from you soon.

**Grant Seeker**  
**Development Manager**  
**Future Stars**