OCM Education and Outreach
Project Journey Log

Renergise Music Project
in partnership with Larkmead School
Building upon our working relationship with Larkmead School, we met with the Arts Department to discuss ways of continuing to work with their music students.

The school are really keen to provide an array of projects that might encourage more students to consider taking G.C.S.E Music as an option at the end of year 9.
Over the last few years Larkmead School and others in Abingdon have seen a sharp decline in the take up of music as a G.C.S.E subject due to the pressures of the EBacc. In addition to this many students starting in year 7 have not had as much exposure to music education as they have done in the past so the school wanted to work with us to develop a selection of projects that would develop an increased appetite for music to be taken up.

To deliver this project we brought on board Zahra Tehrani from the Young Women’s Music Project to work with us.

The school supported by authorising students from across year 9, 10 & 11 to come off timetable and attend the sessions.
### Introduction

#### Context

The Story

#### Impact on Participants

Project Outcomes

Next Steps

### Week 1

We organised the group into 5 separate bands, one of these groups had a music tech focus. The bands all worked in separate spaces and Zahra was able to lend support to each group throughout the course of the session. Song writing played an integral part of the first session as it helped the students to sketch out initial ideas for what they wanted to create.

### Week 2

The groups continued to work on their song ideas, trialling different instruments and styles, and began to rehearse for and end of project showcase.

### Week 3

With the tracks almost complete the students spent the first ½ of the session rehearsing what they had been working on. They were then able to perform their creations to the wider group for the end of project showcase.
She told me she was ready to go back
To go back, go back Home

That place don't feel like home no more
All the crying in the kitchen no more
Hearts are broken and it just ain't up

It's more all the arguments meant to pull us together
But maybe we're better off without each other

Boy, if you wanna fight me, go ahead like we,
Don't wanna be late with you, don't wanna be late with you.
What skills did you learn in the workshop?

“Confidence built up & writing as an ensemble”
“How to form a band and make a song”
“How to put lyrics to music”
“How to use software to make a tune”
“I honestly did enjoy the workshop as we got to work with people (that made us closer)”
“It helped me become more confident on guitar.”
“I made new friends doing something I like”
“Better timing and Rhythm”
How much progress do you think you made in the workshop in developing your skills?

It was challenging but enjoyable
Quite a lot because I have not written or composed a song before
I made a lot of progress
A lot about 9/10 99% great
Quite a bit because I got pulled out of my comfort zone and tried a new brand of music that I usually don’t play.
How might the skills you learnt in the workshop help you in your art lessons?

“Helped me in my composing”
“Confidence in GCSE music”
“I can put music together with less struggle”
“They would help me to collaborate with others and use my creative skills”
“It could help me with creativity and putting notes and lyrics together in Music”
“Let your mind go free”
“To think more complexly about what I am making”
“I could be on time when in dance, drama & music”
“It will help me at cooperating and more about composing.”
How might the skills in the workshop help you in other subjects?

“Creativity”
“I had lots of fun and it helped my gcse music composing tasks & my group were awesome 😊 “
“With confidence working with others.”
“Cooperating with new people.”
“Team work and time management”
“By boosting creativity”
“I could make a piece of music for my drama performance”
• Creation of 5 new songs

• x5 performances

• 30 students engaged in the session

• X1 artists

• X3 project sessions.
Since the completion of this project we met with Larkmead school to debrief and plan for the next stage of our work with them.

We have decided to strategically target year 7 and year 8 pupils. The reason for this is it would allow us more time to work with the pupils before their options and we could also generate more activities for and with them.

We are going to return to Larkmead in the New Year (2017) and work with them in exploring music technology and how it can be used with students in school.