

30,000 pupils in disadvantaged communities waiting for access to life-changing music tuition programme as part of school curriculum

LONDON (12 January 2022) New figures from The Music in Secondary School Trust (MiSST), which works with schools in disadvantaged communities to provide regular classical music tuition as part of the curriculum, suggests that over 30,000 children are actively waiting for access to their transformative educational programme.

MiSST currently provides 8,030 Key Stage 3 students with regular music tuition, through Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme, a curriculum that would otherwise be unavailable to them. The programme has continued uninterrupted, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 lockdowns via online resources and bespoke lessons.

MiSST's latest Annual Report shows how impactful the programme is on educational outcomes and student behaviour:

- **Self-confidence of MiSST students increased more than 10% from the beginning of Year 7 to the end of Year 9**, and MiSST students are bucking the national academic trend for pupils in disadvantaged areas.
- A report published by the Department of Education in 2020 found that the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers had increased for the second year in a row. However, **students in MiSST schools are bucking the national trend**, despite all partner schools serving communities that face significant challenges. **There is no discernible difference in solo academic performance outcomes between students eligible for pupil premium and their peers in years 7 and 8.**

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has supported MiSST since its inception and has recently pledged a further £1million to continue this support until 2023. However, **further funding is needed from a wider range of sponsors if the programme is to continue to grow outside of its London base and help change the lives of more young people.**

Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber says: *“Engagement in the arts changes lives. The positive impact on health, social mobility and wellbeing is now irrefutable. Everyone, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, should have music as part of the regular curriculum. At a time when schools are so under pressure that music teaching is at serious risk, programmes like MiSST are needed more than ever before. With education already so disrupted for so many, this could have a fundamental impact on the future of young people in this country today.”*

Truda White said: *“Music can have a fundamental impact on a young person’s life, and it is being eradicated from our national school curriculum. The Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) exists to provide classical instruments and regular tuition to students in the schools that need it most. And we need your help. As we enter 2022, now is the time for individuals,*

businesses, councils, to sign up to make a fundamental difference to a child's education through music. For just £250, you can support a student through a year on this life-changing programme."

Dr Kadiatu Kanneu-Mason, MiSST Trustee, says: *"Music is an academic subject. It does demand intellectual rigour. Learning to read music or play or sing are incredibly developed skills. But music is also part of what makes us human. Music is a gift, a privilege and an education, an education that should be open and accessible to everyone."*

Please visit the website for more information: <https://www.misst.org.uk/supportus>

Notes to Editors

For more information, please contact

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Read the latest Annual Report here: X

Music in Secondary Schools Trust:

MiSST was founded in 2013 after several years of development at Highbury Grove School. From inauspicious beginnings, the methods that became the Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme were key in transforming outcomes at the school. MiSST now provides opportunities to over 8,030 students and improves educational and social outcomes through the provision of classical instruments and expert tuition.

We believe: Every young person is entitled to a broad balanced education that helps them to know themselves and ultimately find their place as both a contributor to and consumer within our society.

Our moral purpose is: To close the gap in outcomes to improve the life chances of every individual whatever their background or starting point.

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew Lloyd Webber in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit. Since inception Andrew Lloyd Webber has been the principal provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

In 2011, Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of £22 million to support high quality training and personal development, as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities.

Significant grants include:

- £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre
- £3.5m to the Music in Secondary Schools Trust

- £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing
- Over £350,000 annually to fund up to 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need.
- The Foundation is also a founding supporter of the Get Into Theatre careers website www.getintothetheatre.org

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation exists to:

- **champion** wider access to the arts and heritage by supporting projects that reach diverse communities and those who would not otherwise be able to participate
- **prioritise** projects that enable people to develop their abilities and careers, by providing professional education, training, apprenticeships and workplace experience in all areas of the arts, from stone masonry to youth orchestras and stage electricians
- **promote** excellence in all areas of the arts, culture and heritage
- **continue** a role as high profile champion of the benefits of engagement in the arts and heritage and the importance of diversity in the sectors