**The Mighty Creatives: Group Schools Offer 2021/2022 - Round 2**

As part of our response to [The Cultural Education Challenge](https://www.themightycreatives.com/culture/the-cultural-education-challenge), The Mighty Creatives invite you to apply for a bursary of **up to £2500** to fund a teacher within your school to act as a ‘Specialist Arts Lead’ across your network. This network can take the form of any group of schools including: Teaching Schools, Multi Academy Trusts, schools grouped together through geographical proximity, or with a specialist focus of provision.

The bursary is intended to pay for staff cover costs to enable the Specialist Arts Lead to have devoted time to develop arts provision across the network. Previous recipients have used this time in the following ways:

* To explore local arts provision. Devoted time away from the classroom has enabled schools to find out more about arts and cultural opportunities available in their local area, and how they can benefit from them.
* To co-ordinate meetings across the network. By coming together schools have been better able to pool resources including subject-specific training opportunities, access to visiting artists, sharing expertise, and organising large-scale events such as shared performances or exhibitions.
* To develop partnerships with local HE providers. This has allowed longer-term, mutually beneficial relationships to be established; HE students have been given the opportunity to run arts-related workshops for pupils in local schools, enabling those children to benefit from a wide range of arts experiences.
* To identify additional sources of funding. Arts Leads have used the time to access TMC’s fundraising workshops, as well as undertake their own research into potential funding opportunities to further develop arts provision in their schools.

In addition to the bursary, groups of schools involved in the programme will have access to:

* **Tailored briefings** on how Arts Award and Artsmark can benefit your group of schools, delivered to Senior Leadership Teams by The Mighty Creatives.
* **Arts Policy development** **workshop** to enable your schools to strengthen their arts and cultural offer and evidence a strategic commitment to offering a broad and rich curriculum (in line with changes to Ofsted’s Inspection Framework).
* **Project management** support for the development and evaluation of your programme.
* **‘In house’ Arts Award training** in your setting for a minimum of 6 school representatives.
* **Artsmark Development Training** for a minimum of 5 schools – a bespoke visioning and planning day designed to meet your school development priorities.
* **Promotion** of your school group’s success through the development of case studies to be promoted throughout the East Midlands by The Mighty Creatives.

This programme is an opportunity to develop strong strategic connections within a network of schools, encouraging greater collaboration and building connectivity for future partnership working. Artsmark, Arts Award and the development of school Art Policies are the main tools used to achieve this, and in turn can support schools taking part to improve their arts and cultural provision, strengthen leadership, and encourage greater peer support across their network.

**Examples of how schools have benefitted from the programme:**

David Ross Education Trust (group school status; Academy Trust)

The David Ross Education Trust used the Group School Offer to train 6 teachers to become Discover & Explore Arts Award Advisors, and to enable 22 of their schools to start their Artsmark journey. Involvement in the two awards has directly impacted upon the enrichment team’s ability to meet their ambitions and strategic objectives.

*“The framework of the awards have been fundamental in the development of our arts provision”* Jamie Healy, Primary Enrichment Coordinator

The Trust has encouraged the schools that undertook both Artsmark and Arts Award programmes to provide their students with a breadth of high quality arts experience that best fit their individual strategic priorities as a school, with strong links to their school improvement plans. From here they have invited each school to select a cohort of students that would benefit most from a more intensive arts provision, including additional arts leadership experiences using the Arts Award framework. This is the start of a wider and deeper talent development programme the Trust is building, that seeks to empower students to nurture their own potential in the arts through individual investment and support.

St Lukes C of E Primary School and partners (group school status; geographical location)

The schools in this network are in very close proximity to one another in a rural area of North Derbyshire and have an established history of working closely together across many areas of the curriculum. Involvement in the programme enabled them to focus on collaborative working across arts subjects, with a particular interest in how to integrate Arts Award rather than have it as a ‘bolt on’ to existing provision. The schools also wanted to explore how they could further their collaborative approaches to pooling resources, for example access to visiting artists, as well as sharing their own practice in one another’s schools and offering peer support. As a result of the programme, the schools continue to meet regularly to support one another and to work towards a shared arts event, as well as programming CPD opportunities for staff led by internal and external professionals.

**Who can apply?**

This offer is open to schools in the East Midlands who:

* Can demonstrate an established relationship with a group of other schools (at least 5) who are committed to developing arts activity across their network.
* Can commit to at least 5 schools registering or re-registering with Artsmark by December 2021 and attending an Artsmark Development Training Day by Spring half term break 2022. To find out more about Artsmark [here](https://themightycreatives.com/what-we-do/programmes/artsmark/).
* Have support from their Senior Leadership Team or Governing Bodies for their involvement in this work.
* Have accessed pre-application support from The Mighty Creatives.
* Applications are welcome from schools and organisations throughout the East Midlands but are particularly sought from DfE Category 5 and 6 Local Area Districts (listed in FAQs below).

**Key Timeline and Milestones**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **10am Monday 11th October** | Deadline for applications. |
| **15th October 2021** | Applicants informed of outcome. |
| **November/December 2021** | Agree timetable of activity with TMCArtsmark and Arts Award briefings for Senior Leadership Teams (delivered by TMC).All schools register or re-register with Artsmark and book Artsmark Development Day training date by end of December 2021.First grant payment (£1500) |
| **Spring term 2022** | Attend Artsmark Development Training Initial meetings with TMC Consultant to begin work on Arts Policy development.Attend Arts Award training (March) |
| **March 2022** | Evaluation meeting with lead school.Final grant payment (£1000) |

**FAQs**

**Currently our network consists of less than 5 schools, but we should be able to recruit more interest over the new few months. Can I still apply?**

Due to the nature of this funding, it is a requirement that at least 5 schools are fully committed to the programme at the point of applying, and in particular are able to register or re-register with Artsmark by December 2021. If you are unable to demonstrate this commitment from at least 5 schools, it is unlikely that your application will be successful.

**Over 10 schools are involved in our network, can we apply for more money?**

The maximum grant that can be awarded for any application is £2500. However, TMC will be able to offer additional Arts Award training for larger groups to ensure that 2 members of staff from every school can become Arts Award Advisors.

**We’re keen to develop an arts network but our schools aren’t in a position to do Artsmark at the moment. Can I still apply?**

Due to the nature of this funding, it is a requirement that at least 5 schools involved in the programme are fully committed to registering or re-registering with Artsmark by December 2021. Our Creative Network Grants might be of interest though and you find more information [**here**](https://themightycreatives.com/apply-for-a-grant-of-up-to-1000-for-your-schools-network/).

**We’ve applied for the Group School Offer before, can we apply again?**

We’re keen to ensure our funding reaches as many schools as possible, and to that end are likely to prioritise new groups of schools. However, former applicants are welcome to apply provided the programme will be supporting a new cohort of schools within their network.

**What are the Artsmark registration fees? Can the grant be used to support this?**

The Artsmark registration fee is £500, or £250 for schools with under 100 pupils. Grant funding cannot be used to pay for Artsmark registration fees.

**We work very closely with local arts organisations, can they be part of our group school network?**

A minimum of 5 schools must be part of every group. However, we are keen to encourage collaboration between schools and the arts sector, and therefore welcome applications that demonstrate how local arts organisation are supporting the development of arts and cultural activity within schools.

**We may not be able to complete the programme by March 2022, will we be granted an extension?**

Due to the restrictions placed on TMC, all activity **must** be complete, and funding awarded, by March 2022.

**Where are the DfE Category 5 and category 6 Local Area Districts?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **District Name** | **Upper-tier Local Authority** | **Category grouping** |
| Derby | Derby | 6 |
| Amber Valley | Derbyshire | 6 |
| Bolsover | Derbyshire | 6 |
| Chesterfield | Derbyshire | 6 |
| Erewash | Derbyshire | 6 |
| High Peak | Derbyshire | 6 |
| North East Derbyshire | Derbyshire | 6 |
| South Derbyshire | Derbyshire | 6 |
| South Holland | Lincolnshire | 6 |
| Corby | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Daventry | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| East Northamptonshire | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Kettering | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Northampton | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Wellingborough | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Nottingham | Nottingham | 6 |
| Leicester | Leicester | 5 |
| East Lindsey | Lincolnshire | 5 |
| Lincoln | Lincolnshire | 5 |
| Ashfield | Nottinghamshire | 5 |
| Broxtowe | Nottinghamshire | 5 |
| Mansfield | Nottinghamshire | 5 |
| Newark and Sherwood | Nottinghamshire | 5 |

**Do our pupils need to do Arts Award as part of the programme?**

Given the timeframe within which the Group School Programme must be complete, we do not expect *delivery* of Arts Award to take place before March 2022. The Group School Offer is intended to strengthen collaborative working across an existing network of schools and help lay the foundations for arts and cultural activity to thrive into the future.

**Do we have to identify an Arts Specialist Lead in our application? Does this have to be a teacher in our school?**

Capacity to develop and manage new programmes of work is often cited as one of the barriers schools face. Therefore, the requirement to identify an individual who can devote time and energy to co-ordinating activity across the group of schools is essential to your application. Whilst it is ideal if this can be used as a development opportunity for an aspiring leader currently teaching within school, any individual can be named as the Arts Specialist Lead, provided they are well-placed to support schools across your network.

**What do I do next?**

If you’re interested in this offer, please get in touch for some pre-application support; contact the Artsmark team directly: artsmark@themightycreatives.com or by phone 07725 660 525. We advise you to look at application questions before we arrange a pre-application call so we can support any areas you are not sure about.

Please note: We have another fund open at the moment – [The Mighty Creatives Network Grants](https://themightycreatives.com/apply-for-a-grant-of-up-to-1000-for-your-schools-network/), aimed at supporting new networks of schools to support staff development and training opportunities. We can let you know about this and advise if this fund would be more relevant in the pre-application conversation.

The Mighty Creatives will let you know the outcome of your application by email by Friday 15th October 2021.

The deadline for applications is **10am on Monday 11th October 2021.**

**You will need to apply using our online application form** [**here**](https://themightycreatives.com/group-school-offer-2021-2022-application-form/) **but here is a copy of the application questions for reference below.**

**Group School Offer Application Questions (for reference only)**

You will first be asked some for some basic contact information:

* Name
* Email
* Phone number
* Name of Lead School
* Address of School

**Application questions**

1. How would this offer support the development of your network of schools? What difference would this make to your network? Please include reference your ‘Group School’ status i.e. a Teaching School, Multi Academy Trust, Academy Chain, geographical relationship or other
2. How many schools will you be able to reach through your group / network. Please list all these schools and confirm that which schools are committed to registering or re-registering with Artsmark by December 2021.*Please be aware there is a £500 registration fee for each school (£250 for small schools with under 100 pupils).*
3. Do any of your schools currently have Arts Award advisers or deliver Arts Award? Would you like to take up the offer of free Arts Award training for your network/group of schools?
4. Who will be your Arts Specialist Lead for the programme?

What is their current role within the school, and how will this opportunity support their professional development?

1. What activity do you intend your Specialist Arts Lead to undertake as part of this programme?*Please outline key activities and timeframes where possible.*

**If you have any questions about this programme or application process please contact** **artsmark@themightycreatives.com** **or call 07725 660525.**