



8 February 2021

Dear Headteacher / Principal

Re: Free KS2 Vocal Workshops

I am writing to you to alert you to an exciting opportunity. We would like to offer your school 2 x 45 minute long, free online vocal workshops with highly skilled leaders. We recognise the acute challenges that face schools at the moment and hope that this, in some small way, supports the work that you are involved in.

We anticipate that these workshops could take place after the February half-term and before the Summer holiday. As a voluntary charity we value the relationship we have with schools and are keen to provide as many children in Barnsley as possible with opportunities to engage in really high-quality music and singing tuition. All primary schools in Barnsley are welcome to be involved. We have engaged with three outstanding workshop leaders who are involved with BYC, and one of them can work with your school to lead two online singing sessions for up to 60 children from KS2, ideally from years 3-5.

The dates and times can be negotiated to fit in with school diaries. We will try to be as flexible as possible and are happy to use your preferred online platform. Luke Mather, Sam Gilliatt and Eleanor Wright are highly skilled and capable vocal leaders who all have up to date DBS checks and have extensive experience of leading groups of children, both face to face and online. They will be really engaging and high-quality workshops. Biographies of these leaders are available here <https://www.barnsleyyouthchoir.org.uk/meet-the-people> .

During the workshops, leaders will provide children with some information about how to sing well through simple warm-ups and games, and will also teach children a song in each session. The focus will be on fun and engagement but we will also supply word sheets and audio backing tracks that may be useful to your school in the future.

What is the catch? Well, there really isn't one and we don't expect anything in return. Barnsley Youth Choir will pay leaders to run these workshops and we hope that this really supports schools at a challenging time. All that we would ask is that perhaps signpost children towards BYC in the future if you feel that they would gain from being involved. We may also ask you to fill in a brief evaluation form.

We would expect that staff from your school also attend to support the sessions for safeguarding purposes and to ensure that things run smoothly. It would be useful for the Music Coordinator to attend as it may provide some useful information and resources. Whilst we will seek to support as many schools as possible, places are limited and we will offer them on a first come first served basis. Simply email me using the email address below and we will be back in touch to make arrangements. I hope that you are keen to be involved and look forward to hearing from you.

With kindest wishes

Mat Wright MBE
Artistic Director Barnsley Youth Choir
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