

VOICE WORK – COURSE CONTENT DETAILS:

Session 1: Following an introduction to the course by Jane, this is a practical beatboxing and vocal percussion session with Randolph, experimenting with sounds, improvising and composing in small groups. Teachers will learn how to create vocal percussion sounds acoustically and with microphones, using loop pedals. They will have chance to create short vocal percussion compositions in small groups and listen to new repertoire and beatbox artists and groups, get some fresh ideas and approaches to teaching new genres to their music groups in school. There will be discussion about how they will be able to use beatboxing as a tool for engaging their pupils at school. Following on from this session, the task will be for teachers to get their pupils listening to a variety of vocal percussion and beatboxing tracks, and guide them to create their own music, following the methods used in the workshop. Feedback at the next session and via the online portal.

Session 2: This session will give detailed information about voice development and voice care, with particular emphasis on the development of changing voices at KS3. Teachers will learn how to make sure they are using their voices healthily and be sure that their pupils are singing healthily as well, whilst being aware of how to identify and deal with any voice problems that arise. The session will include warm ups and activities that are great for engaging pupils who are not keen on participating in singing. At the end of the session teachers will be asked to go back to their classes and introduce some of the vocal warm-ups and activities, and feed back to colleagues at the next session and via the online portal. They will also be set a task to find out what types of vocal music their pupils are interested in listening to and singing.

Session 3: This session will focus on vocal warm-ups and songs that are accessible to sing in class. The session will look at how to make suitable arrangements of repertoire, to accommodate all voices. There will be discussion about group singing, all-boys singing groups, all-girls singing groups and mixed singing groups, and how best to make song arrangements for changing voices, looking at registers and transposing songs and parts. This will also give teachers the tools to guide their pupils in making their own vocal compositions, and how they can choose suitable repertoire, arrange songs for others to sing, with vocal and instrumental accompaniments. After this session, the task will be for teachers to make a vocal arrangement for their pupils, to try this out at school and to discuss this at the next session and via the online portal.

Session 4: This session will bring all the aspects of learning from the previous session together, with discussion about the journey the teachers have been on throughout the course, and next steps. There will be guidance on continuing to engage pupils in singing, forming choirs and singing groups, looking ahead towards a long term strategy beyond KS3 so that pupils continue to develop their interest in singing. There will opportunity for trying out some new songs, discussion about resources and repertoire, making connections with professional musicians and groups, as well as cultural centres across London so teachers and schools can be connected to further opportunities. The challenge after this session will be to teach some new repertoire to the classes, and if possible to form a new singing group/club/choir at school.