



GOFFS SCHOOL – A NEW OUTREACH PROJECT

As part of Hertfordshire's Five Gold Rings, a new outreach training programme called IMPULSE was offered in early 2012 to five deserving Hertfordshire schools. Goffs was one of these, and they were generously supported by B3Living and Chestnut Extended Services.

IMPULSE was originally created at the Purcell School for Young Musicians by pupils who wished to work with children and share their musical talent. For eight years, the IMPULSE group developed its programme, ran community projects, toured around the UK and offered training opportunities to young people. In 2011 they were 'spotlighted' by Youth Music and invited to re-shape the programme to include more schools. This we have tried to do as part of Hertfordshire's Five Gold Rings.



IMPULSE OUTREACH TRAINING



Step 1 – the Purcell School’s two IMPULSE Managers, Alison Cox and Hannah Grayson, visited Rebecca Steiner at Goffs School. Pete Maiden from Cheshunt Extended Services also attended this meeting.

Hannah and Alison were delighted to discover how much Pete would be able to offer the programme. Without his support, it wouldn’t have been possible for Goff’s Samba Group to visit so many primary schools.

Alison and Hannah explained how the IMPULSE programme would work at Goffs, and invited Rebecca to make suggestions for her own pupils and school needs. Rebecca was offered a number of young IMPULSE Mentors for her project, and she decided to create a Samba Band with her Year 9 pupils. Alison and Hannah met the pupils, and Hannah gave them a flute demonstration!

Step 2 - Rebecca chose Joe Richards and Chris Draper for her IMPULSE Mentors. Both Joe and Chris are excellent young percussionists, and both have great experience teaching, working with and inspiring young people.



Hannah Grayson demonstrating the flute at Goffs



Rebecca Steiner

Step 3 - As part of the project, each school is expected to create a name and a logo for themselves, plus other marketing materials if they choose – a tee-shirt, a mission statement, a publicity flyer....etc

Message from Rebecca to the IMPULSE team (April 2012)

“ One of the percussionists is coming to Goffs tomorrow for a session, so we’re all very excited! We’re just designing our logo at the moment – decisions decisions! We can definitely confirm that this project will continue into 2012-2013 performing and doing workshops in the area”.



April 2012 - Session one (2 Hours) – Chris Draper led this session alone - Contextual and Historical Background lesson with aid from music samples and videos. Introduction to Samba, group awareness and ensemble.



Chris Draper leading the Goffs Samba Group in a workshop

May 2012 - Session two (4 hours) – both Chris and Joe present.

Chris says

"Session 2 was more of a playing lesson. We taught them 3 Samba grooves and calls to link the sections together. We had this together within the first two hours to the point of performing. (NB - no samba gear. Just trolley percussion..even though I was told they would have it). Hours 3 and 4 were spent perfecting the performance aspect (dance and energy) with the last hour spent on coaching workshop leading techniques.

We had the groups of instruments within the band teach the other groups their parts and then led short feedback sessions on each one (from the recipient, student teacher, Rebecca and myself + Joe). This was good for a first try but a lot of work needs to be done still, mainly to do with confidence and things like this. By the end of the lesson we had the group switch round instruments to play the ones that the students had just taught."



The Goffs Samba Group in a workshop with Chris and Joe

Late May 2012 – session 3

Joe says

"Great workshops on Tuesday... We spent the morning with the Goffs kids working on a few points from the last 2 workshops and working out how they can get better etc. Then we taught them an extra bit to the performance that is more rhythmically complicated than what we had previously been teaching them".



Rhythmic exercise on knees

"...In the afternoon we went to Dewhurst Primary (with Martin photographing) to give another workshop to their year 5s. Again there was a definite improvement to the previous workshop which was great because it meant Chris and I could spend more time looking at a few other things, for example as Martin pointed out to us, the use and awareness of space. For this workshop we changed the format, doing the performance, demonstrating instruments, followed by 3 warm ups that we managed to get the kids to lead, then splitting off as normal. This workshop was interesting because Chris and I told the Goffs team that they had to lead each aspect so they really had to think. They did everything from the introduction at the beginning, all the way through to leading warm ups and teaching the children their Samba parts!"





Samba workshops at Dewhurst Primary School

Chris says

"The Goffs outreach project has involved learning about the history and context of samba as a musical genre as well as learning about the instruments and individual placement of each instrument within the Batucada. Through this we have worked on ear training skills, ensemble awareness, internal time, groove, dance, consistency of energy and the different feelings groove can have as well as teaching skills and techniques".

June 2012 – Chris says

"Hi Alison!

Just to say we had another session this morning with a different primary school. There is definitely a clear development in terms of the guys from Goffs in terms of their ability to lead and understand workshops as well as their skills within the Samba Band and also increased confidence on a personal level too! Very interesting...."

July 3rd 2012

Hertfordshire's Five Gold Rings Pre-Gala Event at Broxbourne Civic Hall

The Goffs Samba Band participated in a Pre-Gala Event at Broxbourne Civic Hall with the four other pilot schools, presenting highlights from their project to an appreciative audience of Hertfordshire schools, teachers and delegates. They engaged the audience with some rhythmic call-and-response games and then ended with a lively, energetic Samba performance which set every foot tapping in the hall!

The young people in the Samba Group appeared to be confident, well-rehearsed, fluent and enthusiastic. They had well-developed rhythmic awareness.



The Goffs Samba Group performing at Broxbourne Civic Hall

July 6 -11th 2012 The Purcell School's Hertfordshire Tour

Visit to Goffs School - 7th July



The Purcell School's IMPULSE Outreach Group visited Goffs School in early July to meet and work with the Samba Group, and to try and encourage the rest of the school to enjoy music as much as the Samba Group obviously did!

The Purcell School's IMPULSE group performed to the whole of Year 7 in a school assembly, and showed the children a wide range of instruments, after which they were invited to join in clapping and chanting games! Great fun was had by all.

Goffs Samba Group has now worked with hundreds of children in the following primary schools. They have achieved AMAZING results!

Andrew's Lane Primary - Bonneygrove County Primary (2 workshops) - Dewhurst Primary - Goffs Oak JMI and Nursery - Fairfield's Primary and Nursery - Flamstead End Nursery and Primary *(The Purcell School's IMPULSE group also visited this school)* - **St Paul's Catholic** *(The Purcell School's IMPULSE group also visited this school)* - **Longlands Primary - Downfield Primary - Holy Trinity Primary - Hurst Drive Primary -Burleigh Primary (2 workshops in this school)**

Everyone would like to say

Thank you so much!



Special thanks to Pete Maiden from Cheshunt Extended Services, who has strongly supported outreach developments at Goff's School by providing coordination of the primary school workshops, transportation/other benefits to the programme. This excellent provision has enabled the Goff's pupils and mentors to make rapid progress and share their skills with several primary schools in the local community.



Without the generous financial support from B3Living, it would have been impossible for this lovely outreach project to happen, and Goffs would now not have a samba group at all! We are so grateful to them.



Hertfordshire's Five Gold Rings

Report by Alison Cox

Project Manager, Hertfordshire's Five Gold Rings

12/12/12

