

Information Sheet

Connections 2008 - 09

What is Connections?

- An exciting creative membership scheme managed by The Forge, the specialist participatory arts organisation for County Durham and Sunderland
- Thanks to investment by Sunderland City Council, Durham County Council and The Forge, a heavily subsidised scheme will be available to you between September 2008 and July 2009 that will cost you £250 for a package of creative activity
- Connections has replaced previous schemes offered by The Forge and our partners including Artslink, Connect, Small World Big Dream and Sparks
- The scheme aims to contribute directly to achieving the Government's Cultural Offer to children and young people

What can Connections do for you?

- Provide one year's subsidised membership of a large scale creative scheme
- Work with you to strategically develop your creative curriculum
- Plan and deliver an Artist in Residence working with you in school for a full day
- Provide support and guidance for you when making an application to Artsmark in November 2008 or November 2009
- Offer access to a competitive grants scheme to commission and develop your own creative projects
- Provide networking opportunities and an increased profile in delivering good practice arts and creativity projects

You will receive a membership pack on registration and a visit from a member of The Forge team during your membership to monitor the scheme.

What does Connections cost and how much will my school save?

- Connections will cost only £250!
- Daily rates for Creative Practitioners are normally at least £200
- As the entire membership fee for a year's membership is £250 your school will receive fantastic value for money

How do I join?

- Complete the attached form and return to a member of The Forge team – we will do the rest!

The Forge

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the **specialist** participatory arts organisation

What do other schools think about The Forge's work?

- "Opportunity to work with an African artist and to learn about a different culture. Children having opportunity to play drums themselves. Staff benefiting from getting more ideas of ways of using drums and teaching rhythms" *Hartside Primary School evaluating their Small World Big Dream workshop*
- "Applying for our Artsmark silver award was much easier thanks to the support offered by The Forge. I was able to meet with Forge staff to talk through my school's form and have my questions answered. My advices... take the help offered by The Forge – it's invaluable!" *Gill Dowey, Ouston Infant School*
- "Aim [for the workshop] was for staff to become more familiar with techniques related to sculpture and to have some time being creative themselves – all aims were met. [Sessions were] very informative [and] teachers followed them up with work with the children." *Fatfield Primary School evaluating the workshop they received as part of their Connect membership 2007 – 08*

Any questions?

- Call The Forge on 01207 284 515, fax 01207 288 111 or email enquiries@intheforge.com

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