

## Connections 2009 - 10 Information Sheet

*“All staff are more confident in teaching the arts”*

### 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 subsidised scheme will be available to you between September 2009 and July 2010 that will cost you from £350 for a package of creative activity
- 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 in partnership with you
- Provide support and guidance for you when making an application to Artsmark in 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
- Help you find out what is available for your school to be part of through termly e-newsletters, networking events and access to a database of artists
- You will receive a membership pack on registration

### What does Connections cost in 2009/10, what are the changes from last year and how much will my school save?

- Connections will cost from only £350!
- This year, we are able to offer schools the opportunity to have an **Artist in Residence** for **one** or **two** days
- If you take full advantage of the scheme, you will receive a **package of activity worth over £1,300** from only £350!

Full package including <b>1 day</b> Artist in Residence	Full package including <b>2 day</b> Artist in Residence
£350	£550

### How do I join?

- If your school was a member in 2008/09, only fill in the portions of the registration form applicable to you!
- New members need to complete a short registration form
- The registration form is also available [www.intheforge.com](http://www.intheforge.com)
- If you would like a registration form sent directly to you, please email [Fiona@intheforge.com](mailto:Fiona@intheforge.com)

**Evaluation of Connections 2008/09 told us that:**

- **17** schools were awarded a **small** grant, and the average amount awarded was £750
- **16** schools received a free **Artsmark surgery**, in advance of submitting an application
- As a direct result of their Connections membership, schools had **reviewed their overarching arts policy** and several teachers had now undertaken **Arts Award adviser training**.
- Connections had a **positive impact** on delivering the **Every Child Matters** outcomes in school with 80% of schools listing 'Enjoying & Achieving'. Connections also impacted on contributing to achieving the 'Being Healthy', 'Staying Safe' and 'Making a Positive Contribution' outcomes.
- The long term impact of their Connections membership as the **value of The Forges' advice** on their Artsmark application and also the **positive impact of having an artist in school**.
- The **best things about Connections** were having the chance to work with a creative practitioner and the **expertise offered by The Forge** both in support and guidance for Artsmark applications and in helping in the development of the creative curriculum.

*"The artist visit and Connections grant have allowed us to promote the arts within the school"*

*"[The] workshop was inspiring and wonderful with some great writing produced"*

**Any questions?**

- Call The Forge on 01207 284 515, fax 01207 288 111 or email [enquiries@intheforge.com](mailto:enquiries@intheforge.com)