



## LAUNCHED...

Thanks to everyone who attended our launch event back in October, where we shared our new programmes at The Forge.

We now deliver our programme across three main strands of work, taking a more strategic approach to meeting the aims of Every Child Matters and strategic priority targets, where you will now benefit from a targeted offer from The Forge.

**Forging Connections** is a dedicated scheme for Durham and Sunderland schools delivering arts provision in education settings. This provides access to high quality arts activity and aims to assist schools in the development of your creative curriculum.

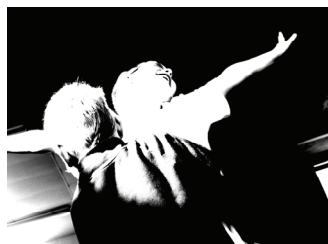
Our new membership scheme offers schools a package of activity. Connections members will benefit from:

- An artist day in residence
- Access to a competitive grants scheme
- Seminars and surgeries to help you apply for Artsmark
- A visit to school from The Forge
- Networking opportunities
- Ongoing information advice & support
- Information days & Newsletters

Schools can access this for **only** £250 in 2008/09!!!

This is a new scheme for us and we're already proud of how it's developing.

Thank you for your positive feedback to date, **please continue** to tell us how it's working for you – we're constantly reviewing the scheme and we can't successfully do this without your feedback!



**Forging your Development** is our dedicated Training and Development offer, providing opportunities to grow and develop professional practitioners working with children and young people in formal/informal education and creative sectors.

In the last six months, we've become a license holder for the **Arts Award**, a national qualification which recognises young people's development as artists and leaders.

If you want to deliver the Arts Award in schools or youth groups you can access training locally to become an Arts Advisor.

Visit our website for training sessions information and how to book.

We're advisors to groups of young people and developing our knowledge and expertise, so we're fully aware of the successes and sometimes, challenges associated with delivering the award.

**How is Arts Award working in your school? Let us know.**

Finally **Forging the Future** is the aspirational and forward facing sphere of the organisation where great ideas are made to happen.

We are excited to announce that we will be having two international artists visiting us over the next few months: Paul Zetter who is based in Vietnam and runs Ensemble Creative will be visiting the UK in March. [www.ensemblecreative.org](http://www.ensemblecreative.org)

Then Caroline Watson from Hua Dan, Beijing will be visiting us in June. Hua Dan are using arts-based approaches to development practice, education and training. <http://www.hua-dan.org>

We are very excited about the opportunities arising from the programme to benefit schools and young people in Durham.

Visit: <http://www.intheforge.com/general.html>

### Watch out for:

Arts Award public training:

16 March 2009, 05 May 2009 & 30 September 2009

New courses only available via The Forge are coming soon:

- Getting going with the Arts Award for advisers
- Arts Award refresher for advisers
- Overview of Arts Award for managers

**To book:**  
[www.artsaward.org.uk](http://www.artsaward.org.uk)

## Our work—a key update

### Cultural Hub Durham

We are working with Durham County Council (DCC) and Arts Council England, North East to develop the next phase of the Cultural Hub Durham.



### Share your views:

- Tell us how the **Connections membership** is working for you
- Share your experiences of **Connections workshops**
- How is **Arts Award** working in your school?

## Partner in focus

### The Drawing Room @ the Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art

The Drawing Room @ the Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art is a free new activity space for schools and family groups.

The room is a bright and welcoming space for anyone who would like to get creative and we have a variety of arts materials available for you to use.

The Drawing Room is an ideal base for groups visiting the NGCA.

It can be used for gallery tours, making activities, discussions and exhibitions of pupils work.

To date we have exhibited work made by pupils from Benedict Biscop Primary and Houghton Kepier Secondary Schools and hosted preview events for the pupils and their families.

Based on the top floor of the City Library and Arts Centre on Fawcett Street in Sunderland, The Drawing Room is available throughout the gallery's opening hours.

#### Opening times:

Monday and Wednesday  
late opening 09.30 – 19.30

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
09.30 – 17.00

Saturday 09.30 – 16.00

The space is ideal for approx 15 children but bigger groups who also visit the gallery can split a larger group between The Drawing Room and our other spaces.



#### To discuss your visit please contact:

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## Opportunities

### School networking event!

Watch out for our next information day to be held in June 2009, at Stanley Education Centre.

We hope you can come along to hear an update on The Forge's work for schools, advice about applying for Artsmark and how the Arts Award could work for your school.

### 14–19

Delivering a 14 – 19 Creative and Media Diploma pilot?

Please tell us how it's working for your school. The Forge is working with the 14 – 19 strategy teams to identify how we might assist you with the delivery of the Diploma.

We have skills in project and financial management, fund raising and writing funding applications, identifying artists,

safeguarding and information Management, all included within the Diploma framework

### Membership scheme

Still thinking about joining Connections or decided not to join? What's stopping you?

We rely on your feedback to help us develop our programmes, please email Fiona Henderson with your feedback: [fiona@intheforge.com](mailto:fiona@intheforge.com)

*'The arts enable, empower, they liberate and they heal. I'm one thousand percent behind what the Forge does.'*

*It transforms the curriculum, it transforms adults and it transforms children... QCA has given us the permission to light a creative spark in every subject in the curriculum.*

*The Forge ignite a creative explosion in every school'.*

*Strategic Stakeholder*

## Member messages

Connections schools we are pleased to be working in partnership with **over 60** of you.

We're working hard to secure your Artist in Residence days for the term you have requested and if we haven't contacted you yet don't worry, we'll be in touch soon.

### St Hild's C of E Primary School, Connections member



The first deadline for the Connections Grant Scheme was Friday 5 December. 08

The panel awarded 11 grants to schools – fantastic news and congratulations to you all.

Any press coverage? Please don't forget to mention The Forge!

Let us know your 'Good news stories' for our web site and future newsletters. We would like to help you share them!

The final deadline for the Connections Grant Scheme is **Friday 20 March 2009**.

We look forward to receiving your applications.

### The Forge

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