

## Endorsement Annex



My Ref: CW/AMC

Tel: 0121 569 8338

Please ask for: Chris Ward

Date: 5th November 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Sandwell Letter of Support: Wave 13 Free School Submission

I write in support of the Wave 13 Free School submission from Shireland Collegiate Academy for the delivery of a specialist music school developed in conjunction with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

I can confirm that the Council requires the additional places for this school to deliver basic need provision. The Council Cabinet is fully committed to the project and has received regular updates on the development of the work over the last year. Sites within West Bromwich Town Centre have been identified for the delivery of the project which includes the use of the newly refurbished Town Hall as a performance venue. Council officers have also been in discussion with

the office of the Regional Schools Commissioner about this submission to ensure all agencies are aware of the potential of this development.

We believe Sandwell children and families will benefit from a high performing specialist school which will draw children from across the whole area. Not only will it impact on pupil outcomes but it will also form part of the regeneration work currently occurring across the borough.

Through our previous work, we have confidence in the partners involved in the submission and know that they have the vision and the capacity to deliver this new provision successfully.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of this submission in the near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Ward', with a small horizontal line at the end.

Chris Ward

**Director of Education, Skills and Employment**



To Whom it may concern

Arts Council England is aware of the discussions between CBSO and Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust in relation to an application to open a free school in Sandwell with a music focus.

The music-focussed school with CBSO's artistic contribution would support Arts Council's aims for every child to experience a high-quality arts education. The proposed music education opportunities would contribute to the talent pipeline of orchestra players, with the potential to identify musically talented children from Sandwell, a culturally diverse borough which ranks among the 10% most deprived in England and the 20% least engaged areas in publicly funded arts and cultural activities. Pupils would access opportunities for an enriched music education with close links to an internationally renowned symphony orchestra.

CBSO's learning and participation programme is well developed in schools across the West Midlands and CBSO is a member of the Sandwell Music Education Hub. Shireland CAT enables children in its schools to take part in high quality performing arts opportunities and offers arts and creative subjects to pupils throughout their education.

Arts Council England supports the application on the understanding that Sandwell Council has identified a need for more school places which can be met through this creative partnership between Shireland CAT and CBSO

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren Henley", with a horizontal line underneath.

Darren Henley  
Chief Executive

**Arts Council England**, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3HF [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

Phone: 44 (0) 845 300 6200 Fax: 44 (0)20 7973 6590 Text Phone: 44 (0) 20 7973 6564

Email: [enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk)

Arts Council England is the trading name for The Arts Council of England. Registered charity no 1036733



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

Vice-Chancellor and Principal  
Professor Sir David Eastwood DL

30 October 2018

Mr Stephen Maddock OBE  
Chief Executive  
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra  
CBSO Centre  
Berkley Street  
Birmingham  
B1 2LF

We are delighted to learn of the collaboration between the CBSO and Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust that will lead to a new music school in Sandwell. This is an exciting proposition and is one that has our full support. Our experience of setting up the University of Birmingham School, as a truly comprehensive school that serves families from across the City, has been extremely rewarding and we applaud your intention to extend music tuition and qualifications to all students across Sandwell.

The University of Birmingham School's extensive programme of music, both within the formal curriculum and through its enrichment programme, has nurtured the talents of future musicians and has enabled students, including those with special educational needs, to achieve success and fulfilment. We remain convinced of the benefits of music and are committed to the continued centrality of music in the curriculum.

The proposed Academy has the strong support of Professor James Arthur, one of the founders of the University of Birmingham School, who embedded a programme of character education within the school. In a report in 2015 the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues at the University of Birmingham called for character education to be embedded in UK curriculum. The report linked strong character traits such as resilience and perseverance to higher educational achievement, employability, and social, emotional, and physical health. Character matters - it is critical for personal happiness, maintaining relationships, and essential for an ordered society. Character strengths help people to thrive and become the best version of themselves. The Jubilee Centre study found that students involved in choir/music or drama performed significantly better on character tests than any other school-based extra-curricular activity.

The Head of the School of Education, Professor Julie Allan, also strongly endorses the proposed Academy. The research she undertook on the programme of music based on the Venezuelan *El Sistema*, within Scotland and in Sweden and supported by Sir Simon Rattle, was unequivocal about the educational value for young people of learning music. The research also underlined the potential of the arts in general, and music in particular, to reduce disadvantage and promote inclusion.

University of Birmingham Edgbaston Birmingham B15 2TT United Kingdom  
t: +44 (0)121 414 4536 f: +44 (0)121 414 4534 e: d.eastwood@bham.ac.uk  
w: www.birmingham.ac.uk

We note your intention to research the impact of this programme on the students and would like to offer to support and collaborate with you in any planned evaluation.

Best wishes

Professor Sir David Eastwood  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Stephen Maddock OBE  
Chief Executive  
CBSO Centre  
Berkley Street  
Birmingham  
B1 2LF

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

Dear Stephen,

I'm writing to express my full support for the CBSO's proposal to open a school with a musical focus in Sandwell in collaboration with the Shirelands Collegiate Academy Trust.

In my capacity as the Chorus Director of the CBSO, and as Professor and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Birmingham, I have first-hand experience of the immeasurable benefits engagement with high quality music making has on young people, from the very youngest members of the CBSO Children's Chorus to our students.

I have also been fortunate enough to work throughout Europe, and beyond, and observe how there is a value placed upon music education in other countries that seems to be disappearing in the UK. Providing pupils with access and opportunities to reach their musical potential, and to enable them to participate fully in a rich cultural offer - which is readily available in the West Midlands - should be a right, and I believe that the proposed school can provide this for our young people.

I am obviously delighted that this school will place a strong emphasis on singing and choral activities from a very early age, and thoroughly look forward to working with the aspiring singers, instrumentalists, composers, conductors and future audiences when the school opens.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Halsey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Simon Halsey CBE



ROYAL  
**BIRMINGHAM**  
CONSERVATOIRE

29 October 2018

Stephen Maddock  
Chief Executive  
CBSO  
CBSO Centre  
Berkley Street  
Birmingham  
B1 2LF

Dear Stephen

Free School focusing on music in Sandwell

I am writing to confirm my support for your bid to start a Free School focusing on music in Sandwell. This is an excellent project and one that deserves to be supported.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julian Lloyd Webber", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julian Lloyd Webber  
Principal