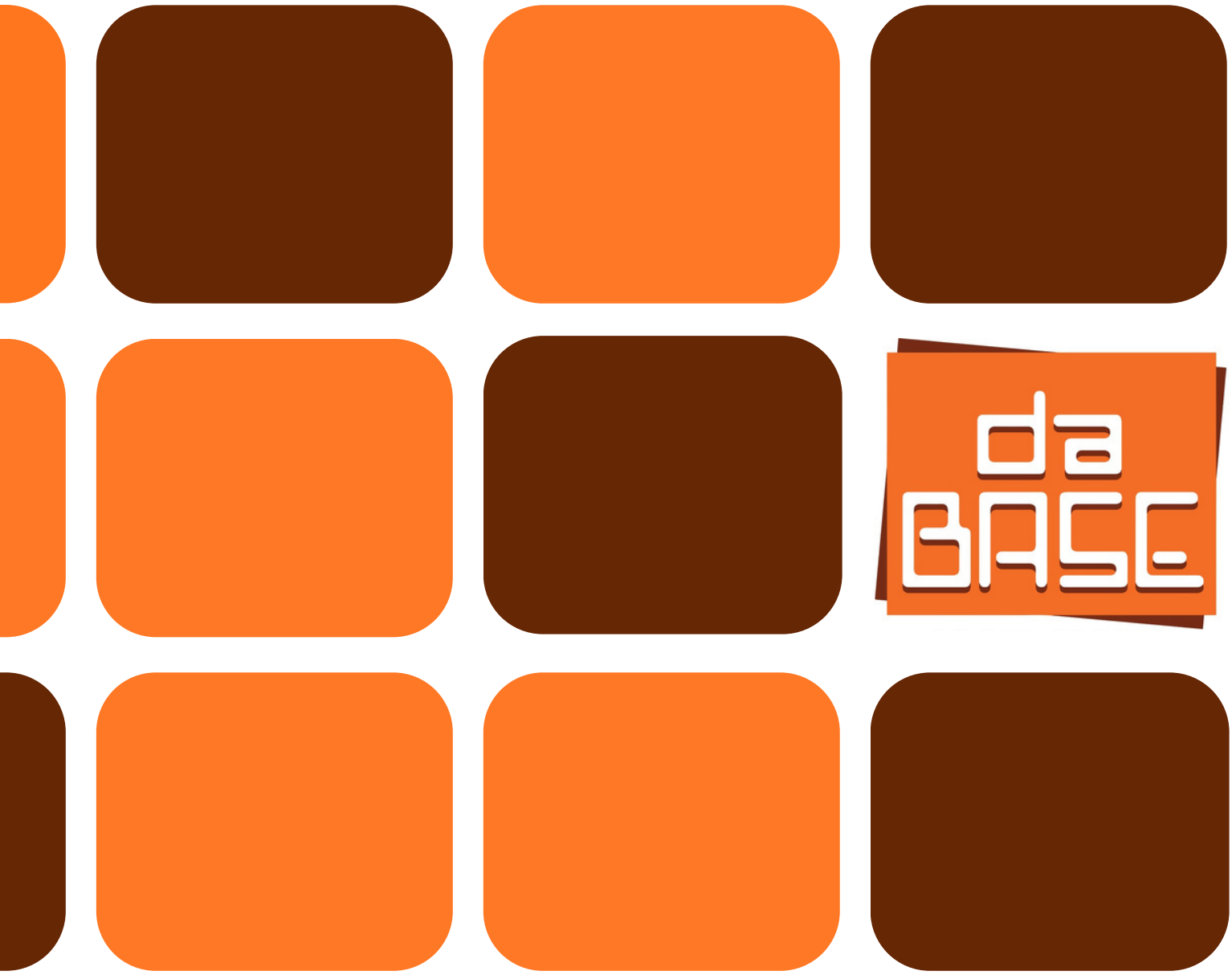


2027
Da Base Music & Education Centre

Overview

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Foreword



Greetings!

I'm excited and proud to welcome you to Da Base Music and Education Centre! It's a privilege to lead a space where we are fully committed to nurturing the creativity, personal growth, and educational development of each young person we work with. At Da Base, we aim to create an inspiring and inclusive environment that values every individual and their unique talents.

Our programmes are designed to spark passion and build skills in areas like music, performing arts, and creative education, while also encouraging personal responsibility, self-expression and a sense of community. We believe in the power of collaboration and the importance of preparing our young people for success in today's fast-changing world.

With a dedicated team of experienced mentors and educators, we are here to guide and support each young person on their journey. Our state-of-the-art facilities offer the perfect space for creativity and learning to thrive.

A big thank you to all the parents, carers, and students who choose Da Base. We're committed to offering the best experience possible. I invite you to explore more about what we do here, and I appreciate your support in helping our young people reach their full potential.

Let's work together to make Da Base Music and Education Centre a place where creativity and talent truly shine!

Warm regards,

Nathaniel Fothergill
Director



History

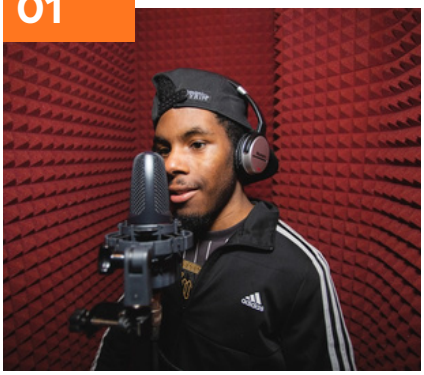
Founded in 2018 as a youth organisation, Da Base Music and Education Centre initially provided young people with a safe, creative space to explore their talents in music and the performing arts. However, as demand for our services grew, it became clear that there was a critical need for specialized support tailored to young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and those requiring Alternative Provision. Responding to this shift, we transformed our focus, expanding our programmes to provide inclusive, impactful education for these young people.

Today, Da Base is a leader in SEN and Alternative Provision, offering a range of creative education programmes, workshops, and mentoring services that support young people who thrive in non-traditional learning environments. Our reputation as an innovator in this field has allowed us to build strong partnerships with local schools, councils, and organisations, creating a collaborative network dedicated to empowering SEN students and those in alternative education pathways.

From personalised mentoring to accessible music workshops and our celebrated annual awards show, we take pride in helping young people discover their potential, build confidence, and achieve both personal and artistic success. As we continue to grow, Da Base remains committed to meeting the needs of every young person, providing meaningful and inclusive educational opportunities that support their unique journeys.

Milestones

01



2018 Establishment

Da Base Music Centre was created to offer a vibrant space for young people in the local community, combining music studio hire with a dedicated music club.

02



2020 New Initiatives

Da Base launched a personalised mentoring programme, offering young people tailored guidance to support their personal development and creative growth. We introduced the Arts Award, a nationally recognised qualification that encourages young people to explore the arts, develop new skills, and achieve accreditation.

03



2022 Workshops

In 2022, we began collaborating with schools and various organisations to conduct workshops centered around music production. Through hands-on learning, participants were able to explore creative expression while developing essential collaborative skills.

04



2023 Awards Show

In 2023, we launched our annual awards show to celebrate the achievements of young people throughout the year. The event featured performances where they showcased their music to a live audience, highlighting their talents and hard work. This event also served as a way to bring the community together in support of youth creativity and collaboration.

05



2024 Expansion

We are now focused on expanding our services to reach even more young people, particularly those who are not in full-time education and have a passion for the arts. By broadening our workshops, we aim to inspire and engage a greater number of young people, nurturing their artistic talents and supporting them in reaching their full potential. Through this expansion, we are committed to fostering a new generation of artists and creative thinkers.

Vision & Mission



Mission

Our mission is to provide young people with the necessary life skills to grow, develop and excel into the leaders of tomorrow.

Mission

01 We are committed to delivering a holistic education that combines strong academics with deep character development, preparing students for success in personal and professional life.

02 We support students' understanding of cultural diversity, global thinking, and cross-cultural experiences. We promote global partnerships and cultural exchanges to broaden students' worldviews.

03 We inspire creativity and critical thinking, encouraging students to become innovators ready to face future challenges and contribute positively to society.

04 We shape students into responsible, ethical, and socially-aware leaders. We encourage participation in community service and social action.

05 We harness the latest technology to enhance learning, prepare students for the digital world, and provide access to global resources.

06 We create a safe, inclusive learning environment that promotes individual growth, respecting each student's uniqueness.

Staff Profiles



Nathaniel Fothergill

Director/ Mentor & Music Facilitator

Nathaniel Fothergill is the founder and lead mentor at Da Base, bringing years of experience in creative education and youth development. Passionate about providing opportunities for young people to thrive, Nathaniel combines his expertise in music and performing arts with a deep commitment to personal growth and empowerment. Through his work at Da Base, he has built a welcoming space where young people can explore their talents, gain confidence, and develop skills for a successful future. Nathaniel's hands-on approach and dedication to nurturing creative potential make him a valued mentor and role model for the students he serves.



Joel Cornelius

Mentor & Music Facilitator

With over 12 years of dedicated involvement at Da Base, Joel Cornelius is a talented artist and experienced music facilitator. Joel's deep commitment to supporting young people's creative journeys shines through his engaging workshops, where he helps students build musical skills and self-confidence. His passion for the arts and long-standing role in the organisation make him a cherished member of the team.



Lee Gaynor

Mentor & Music Facilitator

Lee Gaynor is a skilled music facilitator at Da Base, previously the former manager and lead audio engineer at the award-winning Pyro Radio. Known for his innovative approach to broadcasting, Lee empowers students to explore diverse music genres and media. His work in radio and music production offers students a glimpse into the media landscape, helping them develop both creative and technical skills.



Alex Clay

Administrative Assistant & Lead DSL

Alex Clay serves as both the administrative assistant and the main Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at Da Base, playing a crucial role in daily operations and safeguarding. In addition to managing schedules, communications, and event coordination, Alex oversees safeguarding policies to ensure a safe environment for all young people. Her commitment to detail and proactive support make her an invaluable asset to the team, helping Da Base deliver its mission with care and professionalism.



Jordan Peck

Mentor & Music Facilitator

An accomplished artist, Jordan Peck brings his unique industry experience to Da Base, including performing at Glastonbury and achieving a top 10 hit in the charts. Jordan's background as a performer provides students with real-world insights into the music industry, while his approachable style makes him an inspiring mentor for young, aspiring musicians.



Isabelle Savage

Music Facilitator & Volunteer

Isabelle Savage, a committed music facilitator and volunteer, brings energy and enthusiasm to her role at Da Base. Known for her supportive nature and passion for the arts, Isabelle works alongside students to encourage self-expression through music. Her dedication to helping young people find their voice makes her an invaluable part of the team.

Qualifications

The Arts Award offer a nationally recognised qualification to participants who successfully complete the project. This credential not only showcases their artistic accomplishments but also enhances their educational and career opportunities.

Gold Arts Award

Level 3 Certificate in the Arts*
(Qualification no 500/9666/7) 16 UCAS points

Designed for ages 16+. 90 guided learning hours, 60 independent learning hours = 150 hours total qualification time.

- Extend arts practice and create new work
- Undertake placements and/or volunteer
- Research the wider arts sector
- Develop leadership skills through running an arts project.

Silver Arts Award

Level 2 Award in the Arts*
(Qualification no 500/9914/0)

Designed for ages 14-16. 60 guided learning hours + 35 independent learning hours = 95 hours' total qualification time.

- Complete an arts challenge
- Review arts events/experiences
- Research arts and careers
- Develop leadership skills through running an arts project.

Bronze Arts Award

Level 1 Award in the Arts*
(Qualification no 501/0081/6)

Designed for ages 11-14. 40 guided learning hours + 20 independent learning hours = 60 hours total qualification time.

- Take part in the arts
- Review an arts event/experience
- Review an artist
- Pass on arts skills to others.

Arts Award Explore

Entry Level Award in the Arts (Entry 3)*
(Qualification no. 600/3894/9)

Designed for ages 7-11, particularly for upper Key Stage 2.

- Take part in the arts
- Explore the work of artists and arts organisations
- Create an art work
- Share your exploration

Arts Award Discover

Arts Award Discover is not a regulated qualification but is certified by Trinity College London.

Designed for ages 5-9, particularly for Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2.

- Take part in the arts
- Experience artists' work
- Share your discovery



***Levels refer to the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)**

Qualifications

We offer over 30 AQA qualifications across a diverse range of music production areas. These qualifications complement the Arts Award, providing students with greater opportunities to gain additional certifications and enhance their skills.

Pre Entry Level

Our Pre Entry Level includes:

- Vocal recording
- Introduction to music technology
- Introduction to music composition
- Music communication, socialisation and creativity
- Planning and presenting a short radio programme



Entry Level

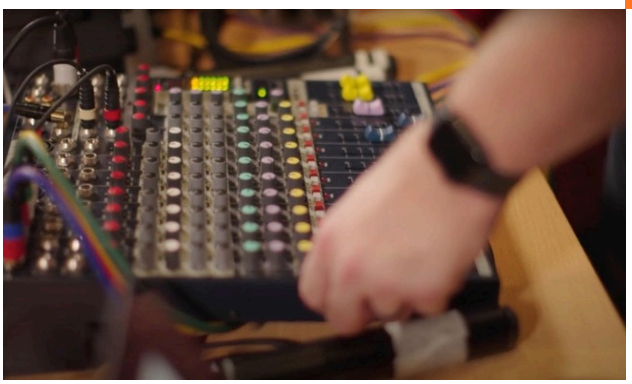
Our entry-level qualifications include:

- Vocal recording
- Digital music creation
- Live performance skills
- Introduction to music technology
- Understanding the music industry
- The influence of music on young people

Level One

Our Level One qualifications include:

- Introduction to music production: unit 1
- Song writing and music production unit 1
- Composing and recording song lyrics
- Music industry artist development
- Music technology: stage managing a live performance
- Mixing music tracks: stereo field and panning



Level Two

Our Level Two Qualifications Include:

- Creating Music using Production Software Unit 1
- Digital Music Creation Unit 3
- Music Production as part of a group
- Music Industry Artist Development
- Filming a Music Video

Workshops & Mentoring



Self-Esteem and Confidence

We empower young individuals to discover their talents and gain self-esteem. Our workshops are adapted to meet individual learning styles, providing personalised support that helps students build resilience and confidence as they face life's challenges.



Inclusion

We are committed to inclusivity, welcoming young people from diverse backgrounds and abilities, including those with SEN and neurodivergent profiles. Our programmes create a sense of belonging and a supportive community, with activities tailored to each student's unique needs, ensuring all voices are heard and celebrated.



Combating challenging behaviour

Music serves as a positive outlet for emotions and frustrations. Our mentoring programme; helps redirect negative energy into creative expression, reducing challenging behaviours and fostering a sense of control and discipline. Using structured routines and sensory-friendly activities, we support students who may struggle with behaviour management.



Personal Growth

Our mentors take a holistic approach, focusing on both musical development and personal growth, especially for SEN students. Participants not only refine their creative skills but also develop critical life skills, such as teamwork, communication, self-regulation, and problem-solving.



Academic Excellence

Our initiative holds the esteemed Arts Award accreditation, offering participants, including SEN students, a nationally recognised qualification upon successful completion of the project. Through mentoring, this credential highlights their artistic achievements and enhances their educational and career prospects, allowing students to progress at their own pace.

Workshops & Mentoring



01 Additional Benefits for SEN and Alternative Provision Students

- Flexible, sensory-friendly learning environments
- Visual aids, hands-on activities, and breaks as needed
- Mentorship from professionals trained in inclusive and supportive teaching methods

02 Supporting SEN and Alternative Learning Needs

Each workshop at Da Base is designed with accessibility in mind. Our experienced mentors are skilled in working with students with diverse learning needs, using a flexible approach that allows each young person to thrive in their own way.

03 Building skills beyond the classroom

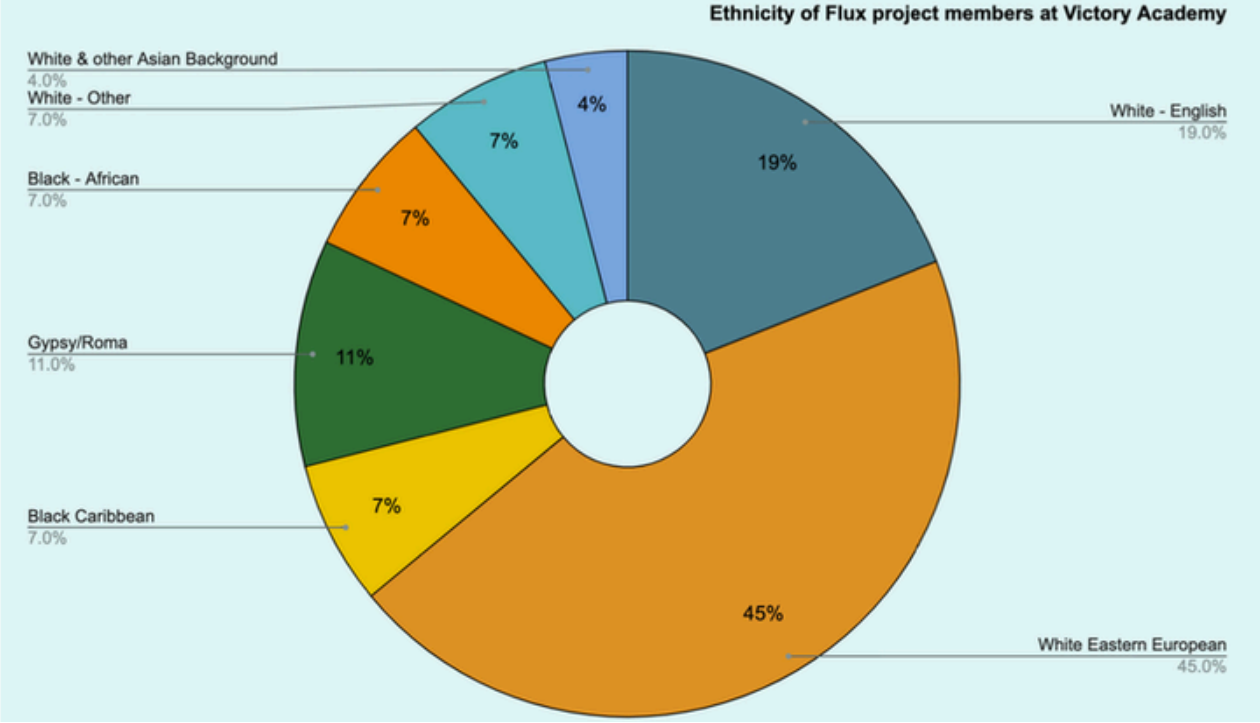
For students in alternative provision, Da Base workshops offer a safe and creative outlet, helping them develop essential life skills such as self-regulation, cooperation, and resilience. These workshops prepare students for both academic and personal success in environments tailored to their needs.

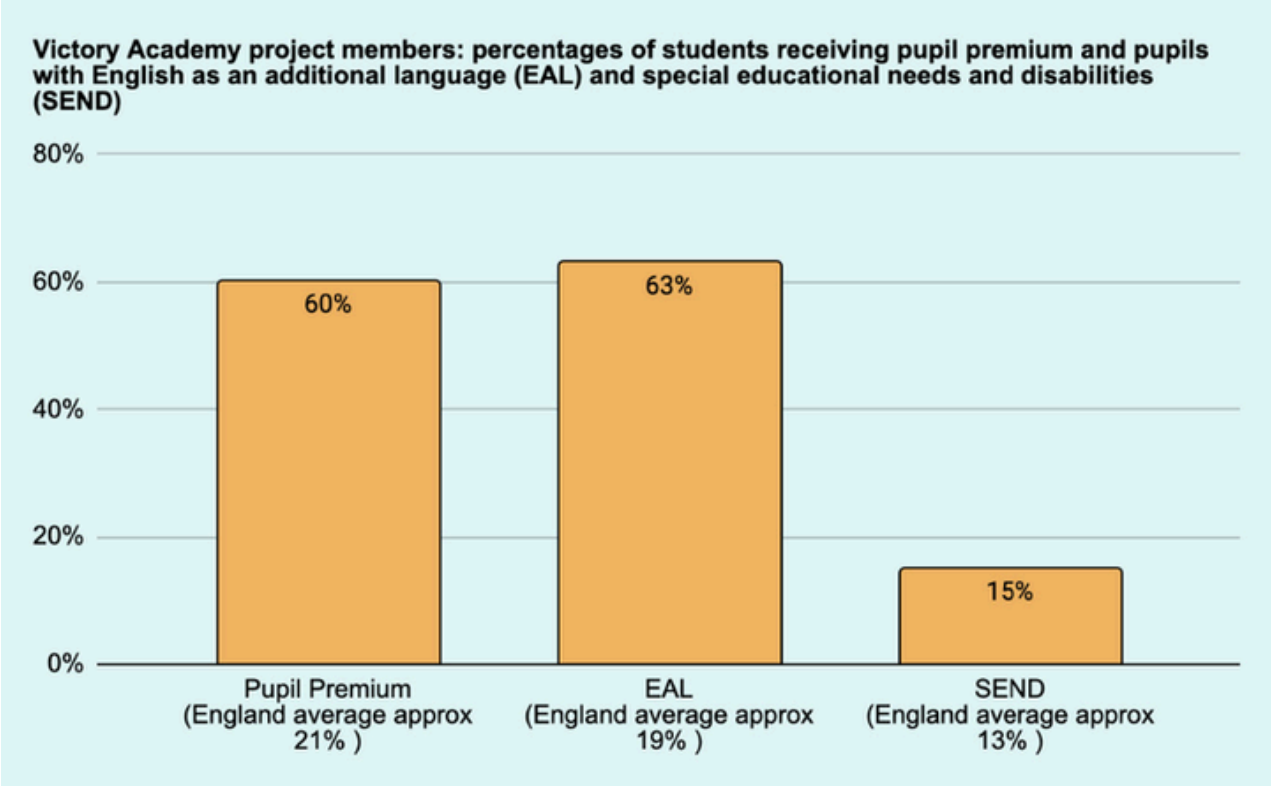
04 Why choose Da Base?

- High-quality music education from dedicated professionals
- Workshops designed to inspire and engage SEN and alternative provision students
- Tailored sessions that support students' personal & creative growth, fostering a sense of achievement & inclusion

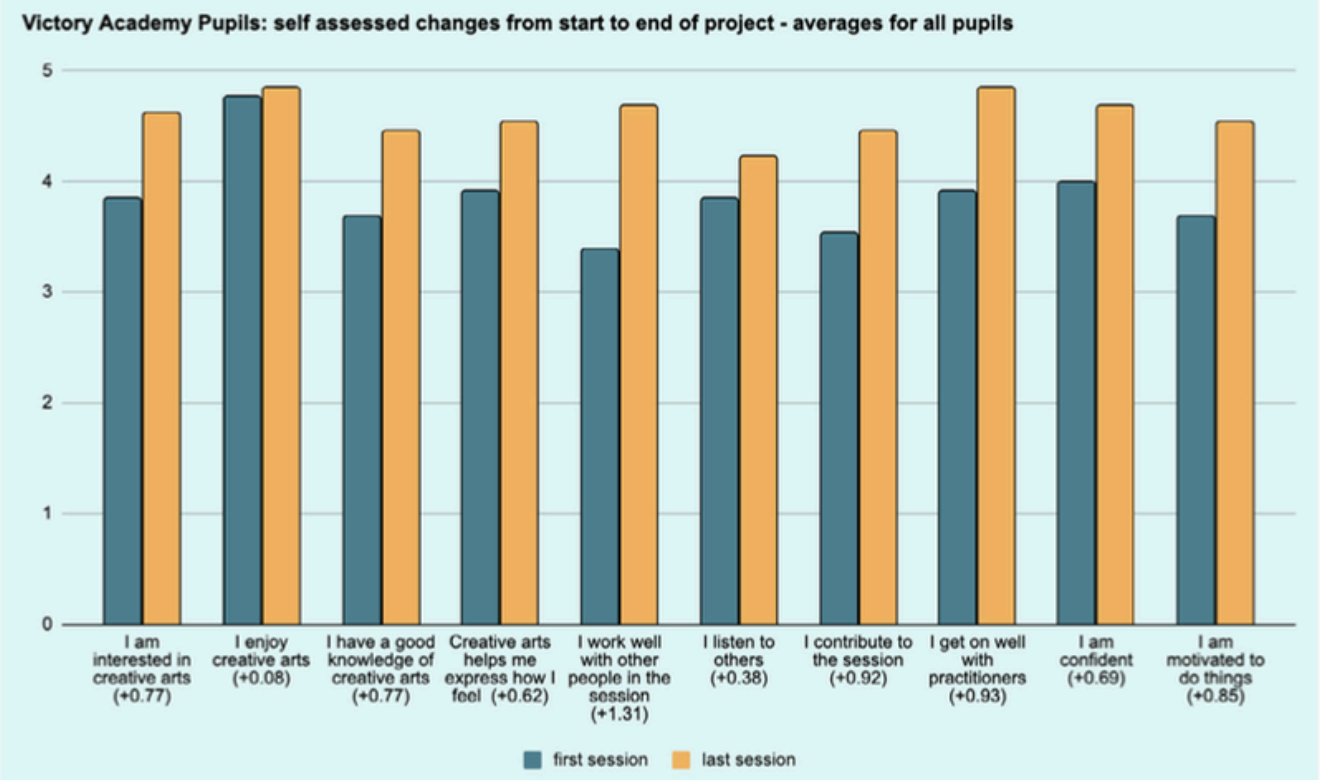
Case Study 1 - Workshops at Victory Academy

Music workshops were run at Victory Academy in Chatham. Sessions were led by practitioners from Da Base Music Centre who worked with young people to write and record music. The school selected young people from marginalised groups who they hoped would benefit from arts interventions supporting the mental health and wellbeing of the pupils. This included young people from the Gypsy/Roma (11%) and Eastern European (45%) communities, those in receipt of pupil premium (60%), with English as a foreign language (63%) and some with special educational needs (15%).

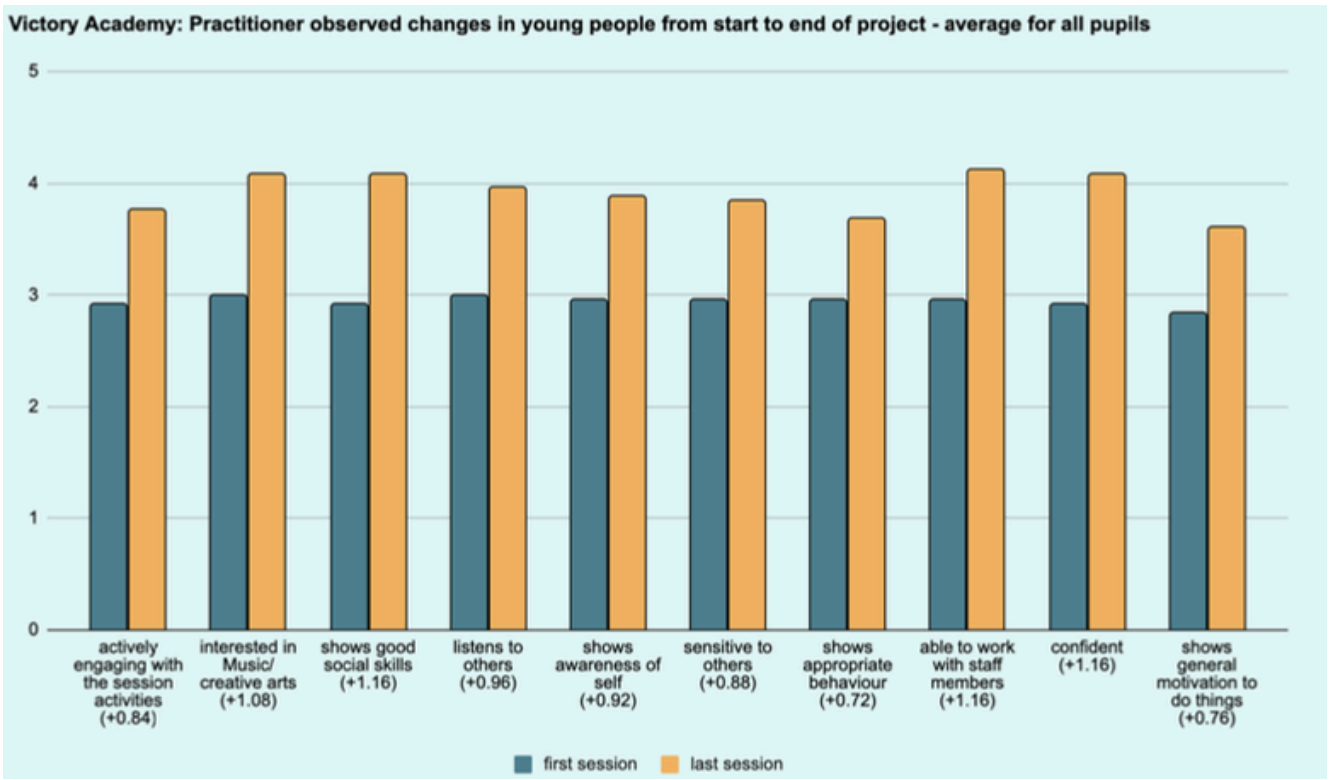




As part of the Sussex University Evaluation, project members were asked to indicate how much they think the statements on the graph below had changed from the start to the end of the project. They indicated 1 (not at all true) to 5 (completely true). The graphs show the average changes respondents from Victory Academy indicated from their first to last session. The 't' scores indicate how much they feel they have improved in these areas.



Similarly, practitioners were asked to indicate how much change they saw in the young people from the start to end of the project based on slightly different questions:



The charts show that the project members and practitioners on average felt they had improved across all areas, with notable improvements in social skills/working with others and working well with staff/practitioners and young people appearing more confident by the practitioners.

Some of the pupils were disengaging from school and are from communities that the young people said had a '*cultural distrust of engaging with services*' and anything '*overtly about mental health would deter the students they felt would most benefit*.' (59) The school identified that students were most likely to be responsive to music. The practitioner said music sessions helped young people '*boost their confidence, raise their self-esteem and interact with peers that they wouldn't normally interact with. I think the great thing about music is that music is such a universal language. It brings people from different cultures, different backgrounds, different genders. Music can bring people together and that's exactly what happened.*' (60) The pupils were given creative freedom and agency in what they were doing which enabled them to open up about their experiences. '*It's slightly therapeutic, it's away of getting away from bad stuff that people my age do.'* (61)



Their sharing of their experiences through music highlighted the extent of their vulnerabilities to the adults around them. The opportunity to express themselves openly led to them receiving support and Da Base gave them a positive experience of an art project where they were heard. Tim Woodhouse, Kent and Medway ICS Suicide Preven-tion Programme Manager, said that it 'highlights the fact that actually, the project is working with those kids that we really need to get to.' He explained that some of those young people anticipated ending up in prison and that Da Base gave them a different 'outlook on life.' (62) In the second set of workshops the practitioners focused on wellbeing and aspiration and young people created a new piece of work which was performed at Flux: Fest and is available online as part of the Flux: Fest film.(63) Da Base gave opportunities for young people to potentially see their futures differently as a result of engagement in the project, thus improving their mental health outlook.

59 Steering Group Highlight Reports/Bryony Farrant-Davis, Ideas test interviews.
60 FLUX Video interview with practitioner Nathaniel from Da Base Music Centre
61 Verbal feedback from Victory Academy Student, Flux: Film, Oct 2022
62 Tim Woodhouse, Kent and Medway ICS Suicide Prevention Programme Manager, interview 14.11.22
63 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5MxvwnEjY8&t=10s

Case Study 2 - L

Background and Referral

L was referred to Da Base by Brewood School to engage in our 1 to 1 mentoring programme as part of her alternative education. This programme was designed to provide her with a creative outlet, while also instilling a sense of accountability and responsibility.



Objectives

Personal Growth and Emotional Development

Strengthen L's confidence and sense of responsibility through creative activities and personal reflection.

Commitment and Responsibility

Guide L in applying key principles of commitment and responsibility to both her creative journey and her everyday life.

Creative skill building

Continue developing L's creativity whilst providing her with an outlet to express herself using music production, video production, and performing arts.

Mind Shift

Help L let go of negative past experiences and focus on shaping her future through wise decision making, goal setting, and a 'can do' mind set.



L vocal recording in 2022



L music production in 2024

Programme details

2 weekly mentoring sessions from 10am to 2pm.

Accountability and Responsibility

A significant focus of L's programme has been the introduction of fundamental principles of commitment and responsibility, applied not only to music creation but also to her daily life and decision-making processes.

L was engaged in scenario-based worksheets and discussions designed to challenge her thinking, helping her understand the importance of taking ownership of her actions and the impact they have on herself and those around her.

Through these exercises, L has gained a clearer understanding of the need to be accountable for her own decisions. The programme also emphasised the importance of setting both short-term and long-term goals, not just for her musical journey but for her personal development as well. L is encouraged to take ownership of her future, develop a sense of purpose, and maintain a positive outlook on life.



L with mentors Nathaniel and Jordan

Outcomes

Since joining the mentoring programme at Da Base, L has made remarkable strides in both her personal growth and artistic skills. Initially hesitant and struggling with accountability, L has shown consistent improvement in taking ownership of her choices. Her hard work has led to her successfully completing the Bronze Arts Award, showcasing her dedication and creativity. Now, L is on the path to completing her Silver Arts Award, a journey that has allowed her to further explore her artistic identity and deepen her commitment to her craft. The tailored exercises, scenario-based worksheets, and performance opportunities have helped L build her confidence and develop essential life skills, visible in her enthusiasm for music projects, commitment to weekly sessions, and dedication to setting and achieving personal goals.

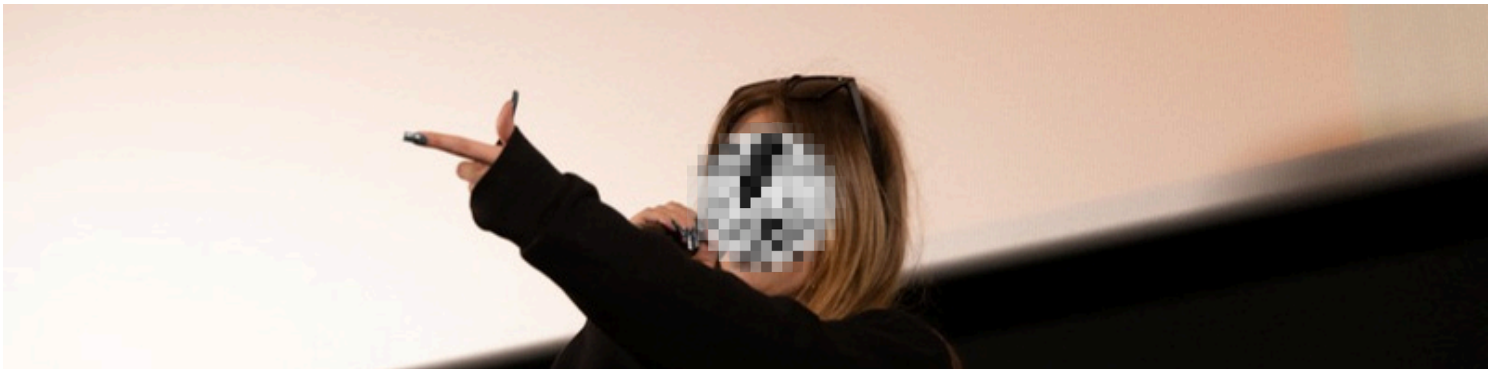




L receiving her certificate at Da Base Awards Show 2024

Conclusion

Through her journey with Da Base, L has gained valuable skills in resilience, responsibility, and self-expression. Completing the Bronze Arts Award has given her a solid foundation in both her artistic and personal development, and working towards her Silver Arts Award has motivated her to embrace accountability and goal-setting. The programme's focus on accountability has provided her with tools that extend beyond music, helping her recognise the impact of her actions on her future. L now understands how positive choices can lead to fulfilling outcomes, both personally and creatively. Her experience with Da Base has built a strong foundation for her continued growth and development, empowering her to make mindful decisions as she moves forward. With ongoing support, L is well-equipped to navigate challenges, harness her talents, and embrace her potential.



Testimonials



“Leo has just started at Da Base and already it is his highlight of the week! I think this club is going to be a platform from which he can explore so many possibilities within the music world and I can’t wait to see where it takes him.”

Katie Fox
Parent



“This club, out of all the clubs he goes to, he gets so excited. He comes out beaming form ear to ear. He loves it. I would definitely recommend Da Base a lot. It’s just so inclusive to everybody.”

Soraya Joseph
Parent



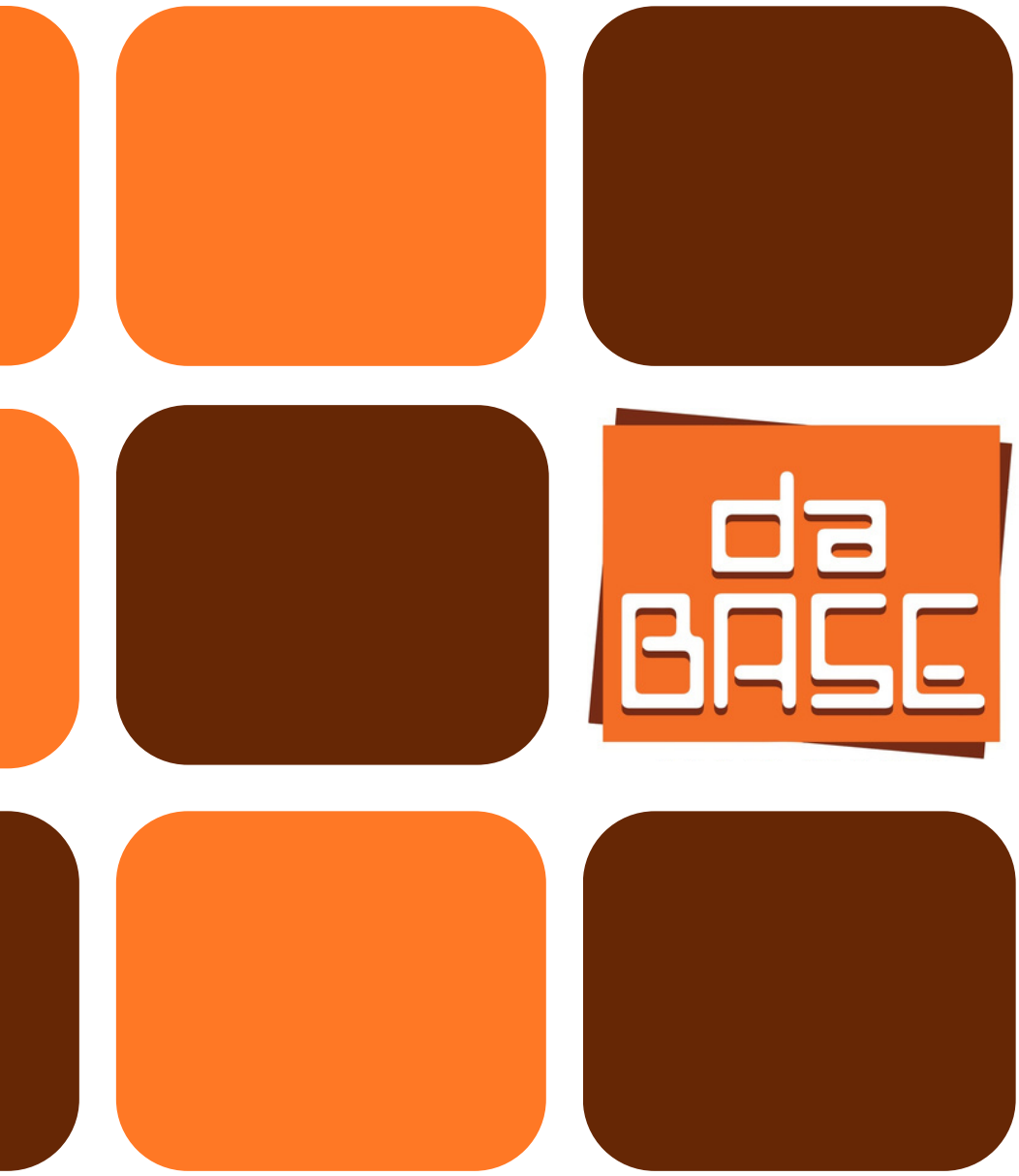
“We are impressed by the fresh therapeutic approach to learning. Da Base helps to boost the students confidence and rekindle a love for learning. Many of our students have had a negative, disrupted experience and Da Base have helped increase their self-esteem as well as improve their creative skills.”

Philomena Boland
Lead SENCO - Brewood School



“I was bowled over by the enthusiasm and positivity around the session Da Base delivered. Our SEN students do not always engage and our tutor Lindsay said how fantastic it was to see. I wanted to say ‘thank you’.”

Francesca O’Neill
Department Head - Brogdale CIC



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