Suffolk case studies: Raising the Bar Challenge Fund projects

Using music tuition to improve attainment and character

Ele Stoneham

Director, Castle Partnership Academy Trust
What was the premise of the project?

• Raise attainment
• Develop character
“Research has suggested links between music education and improved reading comprehension, language development, IQ scores and creative skills. While other activities can be beneficial, music seems to have a wider range of benefits” Professor Susan Hallam at UCL Institute of Education

The Department for Children Schools and Families said: “Children get tremendous value from music, both as a subject in its own right and as a means of motivating students to reach higher levels of attainment across the curriculum.”

Psychologist Dr Jentzsch said “Our study shows that even moderate levels of musical activity can benefit brain functioning.”
What was the premise of the project?

Invest in musical instruments so children in Years 1-3 can all learn a musical instrument as part of their primary curriculum.

Enable the primary music curriculum to be taught by music specialists on a weekly basis.
What was the premise of the project?

- Raise attainment
- Develop character

  - Phonics targets
  - Character targets
  - Attendance targets
What impact has the project had so far?

- Attendance at both primary schools is at target for the whole school and exceeding the target in years 1-3.

- Music curriculum has been linked to the project curriculum

- All classes at one school have completed a live performance

- Difference in outcomes of character questionnaire
What has been learnt?