

# the groove project

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2006

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Firstly I'd like to thank you all for letting me borrow your musicians! I've had a fantastic time devising this project over the last eighteen months and I'm really excited to see what happens next.

We started with just thirteen people – now more than eighty young people have signed up for the three main groups. Funding permitting, there will also be regular drop-in sessions at Wotton Youth Centre, workshops in local primary schools as part of a new 'transition' scheme, and sessions at the Lansdown Centre in Stroud through links with the Gloucestershire Reintegration Service. On top of that there will be plenty of opportunities to perform, workshops with visiting experts, and coaching on a week-in, week-out basis with professional musicians from Bristol and surrounding area. To be honest, I'm not quite sure how it's going to be possible to fit it all in... but I'm sure we'll find a way!

As returning parents already know, I rely a great deal on support and feedback from family and friends of the band members. This has helped not only to make all sorts of ambitious events possible, but also to create a wonderfully friendly atmosphere. There are three main things I now need help with. These are:

1. Extra adults at sessions. Generally this does not involve much – people generally bring a book and sit and read for a couple of hours. I really just need one or two extra adults to be present at times, particularly when we are working in two venues simultaneously. Sometimes it involves a little help with clearing up, locking up of venues, that kind of thing – but really it's just a safety measure to make sure that we have an appropriate adult-child ratio.
2. Information about how the project is or isn't working for you and yours. I try to get to know every participant's interests and skills as quickly as possible so that I can help them get the most out of the project, but sometimes there just isn't enough time to get it right. Sometimes, too, I completely misjudge things and it's very useful to have a nudge in the right direction! Particularly now that there is so much going on, I won't be able to do as much ringing around and chatting as I have in the past, so I would be really grateful if you could ring or email me when you have feedback of whatever kind.
3. Refreshments. Even if we do get funding, I'm afraid it doesn't cover refreshments. Up until now I've been providing LOTS of biscuits and squash and have been very happy to do so. (It has been quite an eye-opener for me

to see how many biscuits the average 13 year old can consume in a ten-minute break without choking or having to lie down afterwards!) Anyway, now that we have around three times the number of people to 'refresh', I'm going to need to ask for help. The simplest approach is to say that there will be a charge for refreshments. This will be £1 per 'term' (Sept-Dec) for Juniors or £1.75 for Seniors – either way, please add this on to your cheque when paying the session fees for this period. Of course, if you'd rather send supplies of your own then please do so.

N.B. The monthly Groove Café events will have a soft 'bar' with drinks and a few snacks. There will always be drinking water available and squash for 10p a cup, but there will also be bottled drinks, cans and crisps which will be sold for little more than cost price. Please supply a little spending money for these events if you think it appropriate. Of course if anyone would like to offer the 'bar' any supplies or home baking to raise a bit of money for the project, we would be most pleased. I may even do some myself – beware! On the subject of the Groove Café, I should also mention that attendance will work on a first-come, first-served basis. It is possible that we may occasionally have too many people for the hall, in which case some people may be turned away. I hope this won't happen, but to ensure a place, please book in advance.

Below you'll find a form which I would ask you to fill in, sign and return to me as soon as you can.

With thanks and very best wishes,

Katie

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Please return a.s.a.p. to:

Katie Elliott, The Groove Project, 14 Coombe Road, Wotton-u-Edge, GL12 7LU

Name:.....

Participant's name:.....

E-mail address:.....

Emergency contact no:.....

Does the participant have any medical condition of which we should be aware?

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Would you be willing to help occasionally at rehearsals, as outlined above? If so, please list the sessions you would prefer (see participants' letter for list of dates):

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Would you like us to provide refreshments for your child at rehearsals? Yes No

We would like to use photographs of band members on our website and in publicity materials. Please would you indicate whether or not you consent to photos of your child being used for:

a) the website Yes No

b) newspapers/other printed publications Yes No

(Please note that websites can be viewed throughout the world, not just in the United Kingdom where UK law applies. This form is valid for five years from the date of signing.)

All electrical equipment brought needs to be in a safe condition. Please ensure that it is, and be aware that by signing below you are vouching that this is the case.

Your signature..... Date.....