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September 2011



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Dear Parent/Carer

Young Americans 3 day workshop – 10th to 12th February 2012 inclusive

The Young American will be holding a three day workshop in West Dunbartonshire Council during the February half term holiday 2012. There will be rehearsals in St Peter the Apostle High school on the 10th and 11th with the dress rehearsal and final performance taking place in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Sunday 12th February. Times on Sunday to be confirmed.

Pupils from P5 to S6 are invited to register to take part in this fast paced music and dance project. 150 places have already been taken up by young people who took part in our last course in April leaving 350 places for pupils living in the West Dunbartonshire area. This will be the first time we will be able to take the project out of our own council area and showcase it to a wider audience.

The Young Americans come from California and are aged between 18 and 25. We will have a teaching cast of 45 visiting with us. The YA's deal with all aspects of the workshops including running the workshops and assisting the young people to learn new performing skills.

The cost for tuition for the three days workshop, participation in the Show and including a tour t-shirt is £50. Tickets will go on sale from the end of October and will cost £10. Further information on where to purchase tickets to follow.

If you would like to register to take part in this exciting project please complete the attached application, medical, media and t-shirt forms and return them all to the Music Base (address above) with a ***non refundable*** £15 deposit made payable to *WDCMS fundraising* **or** by making a direct banking transfer to sort code 83-17-10 account number 00684681 by Friday 28th October 2011. In order for us to be able to trail your direct banking transfer please use the following reference; YA/ Child's name. i.e YA/A Name. A second instalment of £20 must be made by Friday 25th November with the final instalment of £15 due by Friday 6th January 2012. If you wish you can pay all of the balance in advance of the dates above.

Yours sincerely

Aileen M Douthwaite
Education Support Officer (Music Instruction)



Young Americans Q & As

What are the workshop dates?

Friday 10th February 2012 till Sunday 12th February 2012

Where is it being run?

The show content will be taught in St Peter the Apostle High in Clydebank. It is the only school able to accommodate the numbers of workshop participants.

What will be being taught in the workshops?

- Young people learning, growing, respecting each others' strengths, having fun, and discovering their own potential - all through the common denominator of music and performance.
- Vocal Techniques. Techniques for the individual student. Breathing, and the "care and feeding" of the voice.
- Dance. Ballet, jazz, tap, Hip Hop.
- Vocal Ensemble. Four separate rehearsals to bring together all participants into a performing ensemble, rehearsing new music, learning interpretation and working together.
- Performance Workshop. Choreography, staging, performance. Include attitudes, learning the whys and how's of performing and assembling a show.
- Stage Movement. Singing and group dance.
- Sound Techniques. The use of the microphone for the solo voice and other aspects of sound reproduction.

What age does a participant have to be?

There are groups within the overall 500 places split roughly as follows;

175 places in the P5- P7 group

175 places in the S1 – S3 group

150 places in the S4 – S6 group

How can you guarantee my child's safety with so many people taking part?

The council has risk assessed the venue. There will be fully disclosed members of staff as well as the American teachers on site at all times. We will provide identity bracelets which must be worn by participants at all times.

What should my child wear to the workshops?

Loose fitting casual clothing they would wear if taking part in a relaxation or sporting activity and trainers.

Is there anything workshop participants shouldn't wear?

No t-shirts with offensive logos or football colours please. Minimal jewellery to comply with council health and safety and no flip flops or high heeled shoes.

Is lunch included in the cost?

No, participants will have to bring a packed lunch each day and plenty of still juice and/or water.



Will lockers be provided?

No. Please do not bring any items of value with you. We cannot be held liable for any lost or stolen personal property. There will be an area set aside each day for bag storage but it will not be secured.

My child takes regular medicine each day. How will this be administered?

It should be handed to a designated member of staff on a daily basis and collected each day to be taken home. The information on the medication should show the child's name, the dose required and when it should be administered. A medication log will be kept for each child. Inhalers should be kept with the pupil at all times during classes.

My child has severe allergies and carries an epi-pen.

Please make sure Aileen Douthwaite is made aware of this at the start of the first day. This information must also be included on the medical information sheet and returned along with the application form.

My child has complex needs. Can I attend with them?

Yes, and we would encourage you to do so. It's always better if a young person has the support of a regular carer or family member. There is a small space for this information on the application form and a medical form is also attached. Should you need to give us more information please attach an additional page with the participants *name and school* to your application form.

My child has complex needs but I work and cannot attend with them. Can they still take part?

Yes but you must provide us with detailed information attached to the application form as soon as possible but at least four weeks before the course is due to start to allow us to make suitable arrangements to adequately support your child.

My child is a bit shy. Can I come with them on the first day to make sure they are ok?

Yes of course and you can stay for as long as you think is necessary.

When will we know if the application to take part in the workshop has been successful?

We will try to contact everyone by e-mail (preferred) or phone them within 2 weeks of receiving applications however this may not always be possible. As there are 500 places across the three age groups some may fill up quicker than others. If this is the case we will compile a waiting list. Pupils who have taken part in the workshops in April 2011 have already pre-registered leaving us around 350 places to fill. If, by the end of October it does not look likely we will fill these then we will offer another council the remaining places.

You have not asked for the full fees. Why not and when should these be paid?

You have been asked for a non refundable deposit of £15. A second payment of £20 will be due by Friday 25th November with the final payment of £15 by Friday 6th January 2012. If you wish to send post dated cheques or make the full payment by the end of October this is fine. Please ensure your child's name school and year group is marked on the back of the cheque or that you use the reference system if making a direct banking transfer.

Who do I contact if I still have any questions?

Aileen Douthwaite 01389 730785 or by e-mail adouthwaite@ea.w-dunbarton.sch.uk

