

## **Consultation on implementing the English Baccalaureate**

We respond to the Department for Education's Consultation on implementing the English Baccalaureate.

The UK Music Publishers Association (MPA) is the trade association representing the interests of UK music publishing companies who significantly invest in the careers of composers and songwriters ensuring UK's continued musical success.

We consider this to be our response to question 1: "What factors do you consider should be taken into account in making decisions about which pupils should not be entered for the EBacc?"

The proposals for the English Baccalaureate to become a headline measure for schools, and be given a more 'prominent role' within the Ofsted framework ignore the significance of the music and the whole creative sector for economy and culture. Not only does the creative sector not feature expressly in the EBacc, given the emphasis on achieving the GCSEs offered, pupils will de facto not be able to engage with culture.

Ignoring the cultural sector fails to meet the stated objective of education i.e. giving children and young people the 'best possible start in life' in view of its economic, societal and cultural importance.

The music sector is an important part of the economy creating jobs and income which pupils should learn about.

The MPA is a founding member of UK Music who has published a report on the economic impact of music revealing the scale of the UK music's vast contribution to the UK economy: "2014 proved to be a buoyant year for music with increased growth across the sector contributing to a staggering £4.1bn overall contribution to the UK's economy. The global recognition and success of artists like Sam Smith and Ed Sheeran helped recorded music exports rise 17% as British artists once-again dominated the global charts. Live music revenues were up by 17% year-on-year and total industry employment now stands in excess of 117,000."

Additionally, the music industry has been at the cutting edge of digital developments and could provide transferable skills for pupils learning how to engage with the digital business world.

Music is a key part of the collective and individual cultural identity.

Music defines society and culture of England from the folk singers telling the stories of Robin Hood, classical composers such as Edward Elgar, Benjamin Britten, Vaughan Williams and the Sixties super groups such as Beatles and Stones to current artists such as Adele and Ed Sheeran. In the eyes of the world England will always be associated with its musical heritage. Additionally, the enormous impact of music for the individual pupil is difficult to describe in words.

We agree with the Bacc for the Future campaign who provides a more elaborate argument that the English Baccalaureate – if it becomes a compulsory measure – will destroy the skills pipeline of our creative industries and undermine the audiences of the future. We hope that Government re-considers its proposals with a view prominently to include the music and the whole creative sector in the education of English pupils.