

PRESS RELEASE

Ron Dennis supports 'Dreamchasing Young Producers' as part of Orchestra's residency in school.

Students from Acland Burghley School, in North London, will become the 'Dreamchasing Young Producers' as part of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's mentoring programme.

A talented group of 12 – 17-year old students from Acland Burghley School took to the stage on 2 December 2022 at 'Live at the Hex', an event produced, programmed, marketed and developed exclusively by young people and featuring world class artists.

On the night, they made the first of two big announcements about their mentoring programme. The programme, run by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (OAE) - who moved into the school as an official 'orchestra in residence' during September 2020, has been embedded into the life and rhythms of this comprehensive school in North London. The first of its kind for the United Kingdom, the OAE has become a pioneering musical group; converting a space in the middle of the school building into their offices, the school hall into professional rehearsal space, and their entire operations undertaken in partnership with the school.

All of these students have participated in a new skills-based development programme, to train students in artistic planning, event production, camera craft and set design. Named the Young Producers scheme, which includes mentoring from those at the top of their field from the OAE and their artistic connections across the music sector, gives students the chance to have real-world 'field' tasks where they work on lighting, filming, design and production as part of OAE events, in addition to receiving secondments to other professional arts organisation for further hands-on experience. The scheme encourages mentoring amongst the students as new cohorts join each year and the young producers are empowered to become the teacher once they have qualified through their own experience.

"It's about giving people real life skills. When an orchestra moves into a school, people assume that our ambition will be to help every student to learn the violin. Of course, we are always pushing for musical engagement and at every level, but there is a lot more that we can offer besides. We have the chance to provide these young people with experiences they will never forget, the opportunity to develop their skills, and tangible work-experience which will train them and open up career opportunities for the future. This is what our partnership at the school is about - it's about working with the community we are in, understanding its priorities rather than imposing our own and sharing the resource we have."

Crispin Woodhead / Chief Executive, OAE

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Surrounded by their peers, parents and fellow performers from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment on 2 December, the Young Producers also announced a major new gift in support of the scheme, and a new name, reflective of the values and ethos of the supporter behind it. The 'Dreamchasing Young Producers' are now backed by founding shareholder and former Chairman of The McLaren Technology Group, Ron Dennis, as part of his Dreamchasing Foundation that seeks to provide opportunities for young people to pursue their goals.

"Dreamchasing is about making a difference and investing in the next generation; over the 15-years that Dreamchasing has been running, we have been privileged to support many different projects, initiatives, and talented individuals, all of which were lacking in funding, and enabled them to achieve their dreams."

Ron Dennis

The OAE has now received vital funding in order to expand the offer to two cohorts of Young Producers, create further production opportunities including working with the school's media department to create an in-house documentary about the residency, and to launch a new creative video competition for students at the school.

"I am really enjoying young producers because I feel I'm actually learning something useful instead of something I feel like I will never use, which has always been my problem with school. So far, Young Producers has given me the experience to set up a recording, manage an event, operate a camera and work in a more professional environment than what school allow for. It also set me up nicely for future opportunities."

Rafi / Young Producer.

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Notes to editors:

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment is renowned for its curious, challenging and trailblazing approach to making music. It performs music from the 17th to the early 20th Centuries on instruments or replicas and using techniques from the time the music was composed. It is a Resident Orchestra at London's Southbank Centre, an artistic associate at Kings Place, and regularly tours the UK and internationally. It works with a network of schools and music hubs to deliver its education programme across the UK with over 16,000 participants in 2021/22. In 2020 it became the first UK orchestra to be based in a school when it became resident at Acland Burghley School in Tufnell Park, North London... our office is literally in the playground. Website: oae.co.uk