

A Day in the Life of...a Music Leader Apprentice

My name's Teri and I'm one of three apprentices that work at Plymouth Music Zone. I'd like to write you a witty account of the many trials and tribulations that are involved but I have to say it's an absolute joy. I wanted to work at PMZ from the moment I knew it existed and indeed when I attended a workshop with project director, Ben Ballard, during my PGCE I asked him for a job then and there. Unfortunately for me, being a qualified teacher does not necessarily make you a music leader and I was told I needed more experience. So months later when I saw the position of apprentice music leader advertised in the Herald I knew my destiny was staring me in the face.



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Plymouth Music Zone is a community based non profit organisation that provides a variety of music workshops for young people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. In fact, there are so many exciting things going on every week that I could not possibly list them all here so please refer to the rest of the website for this exciting information or keep reading and you will get a taste for the kind of things I take part in every week. The most important fact I can give you is that we believe in the power of music to make a difference in the lives of young people and this belief is carried by each and every member of staff from music leaders to administrators.

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A typical day in the life of an apprentice music leader starts in the jam-packed store cupboard where the array of instruments is almost mind boggling. As an apprentice my job is to work with several fully fledged music leaders so I can both be of help to them and learn from them. Along with making them cups of tea, this inevitably involves helping them to prepare for each session by getting out the instruments and resources that are needed. This could range from a few small percussion instruments to enough instruments, microphones and amplifiers for a 10 piece rock band.

Every Wednesday at 9:30am sharp I arrive in time to prepare for a session that I lead alongside music leader and house technician Simon Hackworthy. During this session Simon and I work with a group of about 8 children with profound learning disabilities or behavioural problems in PMZ's brand spanking new "Sensation Music Station". The SMS room, as we call it, is a veritable playground of technological toys that do things such as create sounds simply by you having to break a beam of light or project patterns on the wall that respond to sounds. During this session the children enjoy singing, African drumming, conducting and even some free time to enjoy the many exciting toys and instruments that the SMS room has to offer. Not bad going I'm sure you'll agree. My favourite part of the session however is right at the end where we all lie down and listen to some relaxing music in order to calm down after all the excitement of making music. I have to confess to nearly falling asleep at this point every week. Wonderful!