10 REASONS
why arts and culture make a difference to young people’s lives

The statements in this document have been drawn together from a variety of sources including academic research, sector specific publications and government reports. To find out more go to: www.weareive.org/bridge/10-Reasons
Arts and culture improve educational attainment across the curriculum

- Schools integrating the arts show above average reading and mathematics scores
- Drama improves confidence, attendance and literacy, particularly for students with English as an Additional Language
- Music improves attainment in maths, literacy and early language acquisition
- Engineering graduates who have previously studied the arts show above average results.

Arts and culture promote economic growth

- Arts and culture play a central role in attracting overseas visitors and investment
- The UK’s creative industries are worth £87.4bn, employing one in 11 working people
- The arts teach entrepreneurial abilities that are key to the future of engineering and the economy
- Firms that deploy STEM and art skills (STEAM) experience faster sales growth than STEM firms.

Arts and culture develop skills for the jobs of the future

- The increase in automation means that jobs of the future are likely to require the skills that only humans can bring - empathy, creativity and enterprise
- Arts and cultural education nurtures these skills and prepares young people for new creative professions of the future.

Arts and culture improve mental health and wellbeing

Mental health teams using arts and culture in schools have seen benefits including:
- Improved self-esteem, social skills and social inclusion
- Opportunities to develop new supportive friendships
- Better school attendance and participation in extra-curricular activities
- Distraction from ongoing anxieties and greater freedom to make decisions.

Arts and culture provide routes to success for young people with special educational needs

- Students who engage in the arts at school are twice as likely to volunteer and are 20% more likely to vote as young adults
- Drama in schools significantly increases young people’s communication skills and makes them more empathic, more tolerant and more likely to participate in public issues.

Arts and culture encourage civic and political engagement

- Students who engage in the arts at school have seen benefits in maths, literacy and early language acquisition
- Engineering graduates who have previously studied the arts show above average results.

Arts and culture level the playing field for disadvantaged students

- Disadvantaged young people taking part in arts activities show positive social and academic outcomes
- Schools using Pupil Premium funding for arts and cultural experiences are seeing reduced attainment gaps
- At-risk young people with a history of arts engagement show higher achievement.

Arts and culture promote community engagement and cohesion

Evidence shows that participation in arts and cultural activity:
- Contributes to community cohesion
- Reduces social exclusion and isolation
- Makes communities feel safer and stronger, revitalising community pride
- Strengthens infrastructures and boosts local economies.

Arts and culture make learning fun

Students who engage in quality arts experiences:
- Are less likely to drop out of education
- Have a more positive view of themselves
- Demonstrate improved achievement, engagement, collaboration and motivation
- Develop their personality, expression, critical thinking, creativity and imagination

Arts and culture make transferable life and work skills

There is strong evidence that arts education cultivates:
- Confidence and motivation
- Cognitive abilities, critical thinking and problem solving
- Teamwork, communication and social competency
- A higher chance of sustaining employment into later life.