



MEDIA RELEASE Event: Fri 15 Jan 2010 9.30am-2.30pm at Plymouth Music Zone

More than a hundred budding doctors, lawyers, artists and astronauts will be creating music together at Plymouth Music Zone to launch a unique project that proves the world really is your oyster...

The children from 6 Primary Schools in Stonehouse are set to take centre stage at PMZ to kick start a careers advice initiative that aims to open a hundred 10 year old's eyes to what they really want to be when they grow up. The 'Widening Horizons' project is the first of its kind to take place in primary schools and believes catching them sooner rather than later can help children set their sights higher and wider.

Paul Mason who runs the project for a regeneration agency called the Millfields Trust says: **"It's all about really showing what's out there and giving young children the chance to see and experience a whole range of work and career choices they may never come across on their own doorsteps. With recent surveys finding that children are dreaming of celebrity lifestyles and setting their sights on becoming the next Leona Lewis or Wayne Rooney this sort of work is well timed. The 'Widening horizons' initiative is designed to introduce students to a range of different work experiences and role models in an attempt to really broaden their horizons."**

As part of the project, children take part in activities designed to promote their confidence and self-esteem to raise their aspirations and motivation when back in school. The programme starts with a 'launch' event hosted by Plymouth Music Zone where a hundred year 5 students will be using music to make friends beyond their own school gates. The day itself focuses on group cohesion, team work and student participation through fun and enjoyable music activities. The singing and music-making workshops are being recorded onto CD and the tracks will then be 'mixed' with the help of some aspiring 10 year old music producers before being presented to every participant when they return to school.

PMZ Programme Manager, Karl Meyer, says: **"No matter what school they come from or what they say about the other schools in the playground, music is the icebreaker and the language they all understand so by using it to break down the barriers it automatically creates that feeling of anything being possible, not just for the children but for the teachers there too. We're probably all guilty of being used to our own little comfort zone, so we could all do with broadening our horizons and could no doubt all learn a lot from the Widening Horizons project."**

Further visits are planned to support the work over the next few months and will include trips to the National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth Museum, Theatre Royal, Plymouth University, the Eden Project, Callington Space Centre and North Prospect Garage. A Graduation event is being planned to celebrate the project in July. Any workplace that would like to participate and thinks they can offer these Year 5 students a valuable experience looking into career options please contact Paul Mason at the Millfields Trust on 660837 or paulmason@millfieldstrust.com

For further details of the launch event at PMZ call Karl Meyer or Glyn Fuge on 01752 213690

-Ends

See below for Notes to Editors

Plymouth Music Zone Ltd

Raglan Road, Devonport, Plymouth, PL1 4NQ

T - 01752 213690 **F** - 01752 509888 **E** - info@plymouthmusiczone.org.uk **W** - www.plymouthmusiczone.org.uk

Company Number - 4653409 Registered Charity Number - 1100878



SPACE
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AND ARTS



plymouth music zone
MUSIC MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Notes to Editors:

The 6 Primary Schools in Stonehouse taking part are:

High Street Primary School
St George's Primary School
St Andrew's Primary School
St Peter's Primary School
Cathedral Primary School
Pilgrim Primary School



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