

CAMBRIDGE CITY CULTURAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP



CREATIVE FUTURES

2026-2027 Academic Offer

AN INTRODUCTION

Cultural education has long been recognised across the UK as an essential part of a broad and balanced curriculum, but its value reaches far beyond the classroom. When young people are given meaningful opportunities to engage with the arts, something deeper happens; their confidence grows, their voices strengthen, and their connection to learning becomes more personal. Schools that weave creativity into everyday teaching often see this reflected in higher attainment.

Just as importantly, cultural education shapes who young people become. Participation in creative activity supports emotional wellbeing, builds resilience, and helps young people find ways to express thoughts and feelings that might otherwise remain unheard. Yet access to these opportunities is far from equal. For many children, especially those facing disadvantage, school is the only place where they can encounter the arts in a meaningful way. When that provision is limited, the gap widens, not just in skills but in confidence, aspiration, and sense of belonging.

“IT IS SO LOVELY TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THESE FUNDED OPPORTUNITIES AND BRING THEATRE ALIVE FOR THE STUDENTS IN OUR CLASSROOMS, IT MAKES SUCH A DIFFERENCE TO THEIR LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT.”

2025-2026 CREATIVE FUTURES IMPACT

1,109

YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTLY ENGAGED

75

WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS OFFERED

99

SESSIONS DELIVERED

29

SCHOOLS ENGAGED

Against this backdrop, the Curriculum and Assessment Review marks a pivotal moment for change. With a new National Curriculum on the horizon, there is a clear intention to rebalance priorities and ensure every child can access rich cultural experiences. In Cambridge, Creative Futures is already advancing the kind of cultural entitlement this vision demands, making a compelling case for investment now and seizing the opportunity to support a generation of young people at a critical stage in their development. This urgency is reinforced by the national picture: arts participation continues to decline with GCSE entries in creative subjects at an all-time low in 2025 (around 7%). Without strong local infrastructure and sustained support, schools cannot reverse this trend alone. This is why Creative Futures remains free to access for schools and young people for another year in 2026-2027.

What is at stake is a generation's sense of possibility. What remains is a collective will to act, to ensure that every young person, regardless of background, can experience the transformative power of the arts, not at some distant point in the future, but now.

Signed: Ben Hallworth, Creative Partnerships Manager at Cambridge City Council
 Katie Short, Creative Learning & Engagement Manager at The Arts Theatre Cambridge
 Beth Bailey, Head of Creative Learning at Cambridge Junction
 Michael Judge, Associate Artistic Director at New International Encounter
 Karla Harris, Schools Partnership Manager at Royal Ballet & Opera
 Rhiannydd Andrews, Learning Coordinator at Frantic Assembly
 Daisy Wyatt, Interim Centre for Advanced Training Manager at DanceEast



THE ARTS THEATRE CAMBRIDGE

Event: Blood Brothers Production

Target Audience: Year 7 - Year 13 Drama

Date: Tuesday 15 – Thursday 17 September 2026

Location: The Arts Theatre Cambridge

Capacity: 60 students

Written by Willy Russell, the legendary *Blood Brothers* tells the captivating and moving tale of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with fateful consequences.

Blood Brothers connects directly to the secondary English and Drama curriculum as a set text studied across a range of GCSE exam boards, including AQA and Eduqas for English Literature and several Drama specifications.

Each school can be provided up to 60x fully subsidised tickets to the production at The Arts Theatre Cambridge, for either the matinee production on Thursday 17 September 2026, or an evening performance between Tuesday 15 – Thursday 17 September 2026, depending on availability at the time of request.



FRANTIC ASSEMBLY

Event: Frantic Assembly Workshops

Target Audience: Year 10 – Year 13 Drama

Date: Monday 8 or Tuesday 9 February 2027

Duration: 2 hours

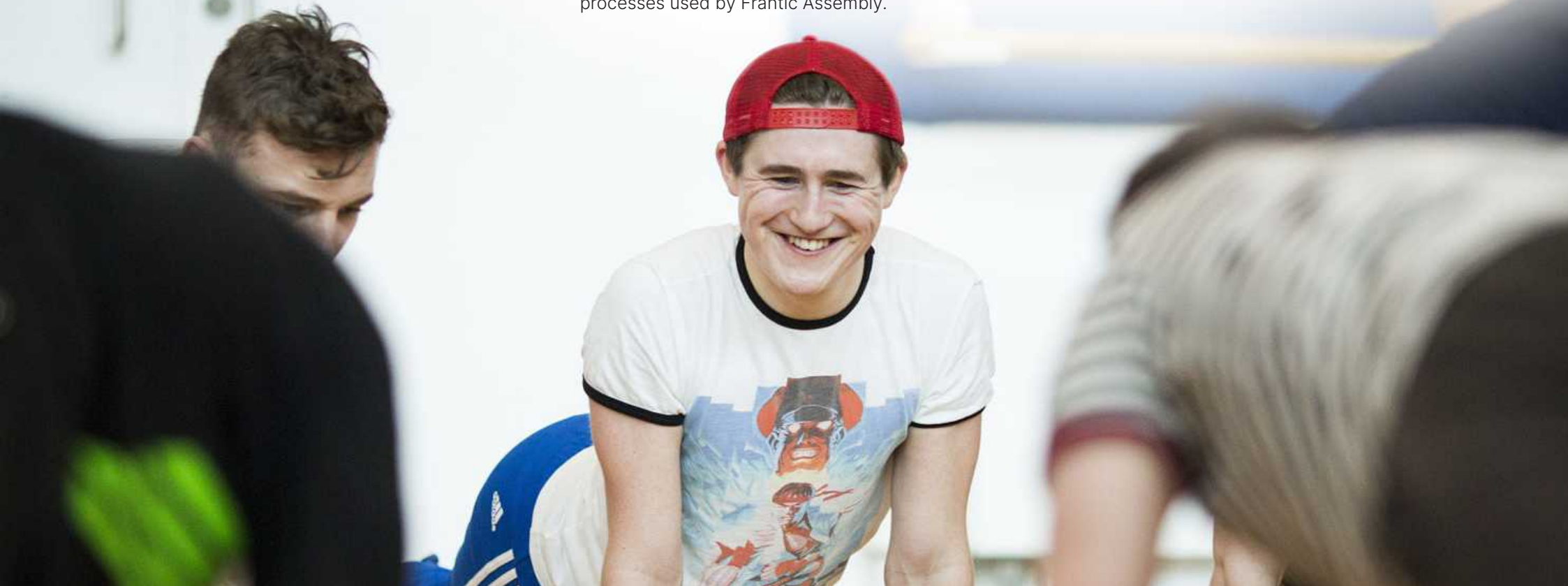
Location: School

Capacity: 30 students

**Please note that FRANTIC ASSEMBLY are not part of the creative team for this production of Curious Incident.*

During the week that *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is at the Arts Theatre in Cambridge*, bring a specialist Frantic Assembly practitioner to your school and let your students experience how a professional company creates new material. Choose between:

- **Devising and Physicality** - This workshop provides students with a bank of skills to take away and use in their own devising work, promotes the physical confidence they need to be brave and bold with the material they are making, and uses production-specific exercises from shows such as *Lovesong*, *Beautiful Burnout*, *Othello*, *Things I Know to Be True* and *The Unreturning*. Students will also explore the various devising processes used by Frantic Assembly while developing skills in performance, movement, directing and critical analysis.
- **Curious Incident** - This workshop enables students to experience what it is like to be an actor in the rehearsal room, uncovers the devices and techniques used to create movement for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and offers insight into how a professional company creates physical material. It also promotes the physical confidence students need to be brave and bold with the material they are making, uses production-specific exercises to explore the devising processes used by Frantic Assembly.



NEW INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTER

Event: Shakespeare in a Suitcase: Hamlet Schools Tour 2026

Target Audience: Year 3 – Year 6 Primary

Date: Wednesday 11 or Friday 20 November 2026

Duration: 55 minutes

Location: School

Capacity: 60 students

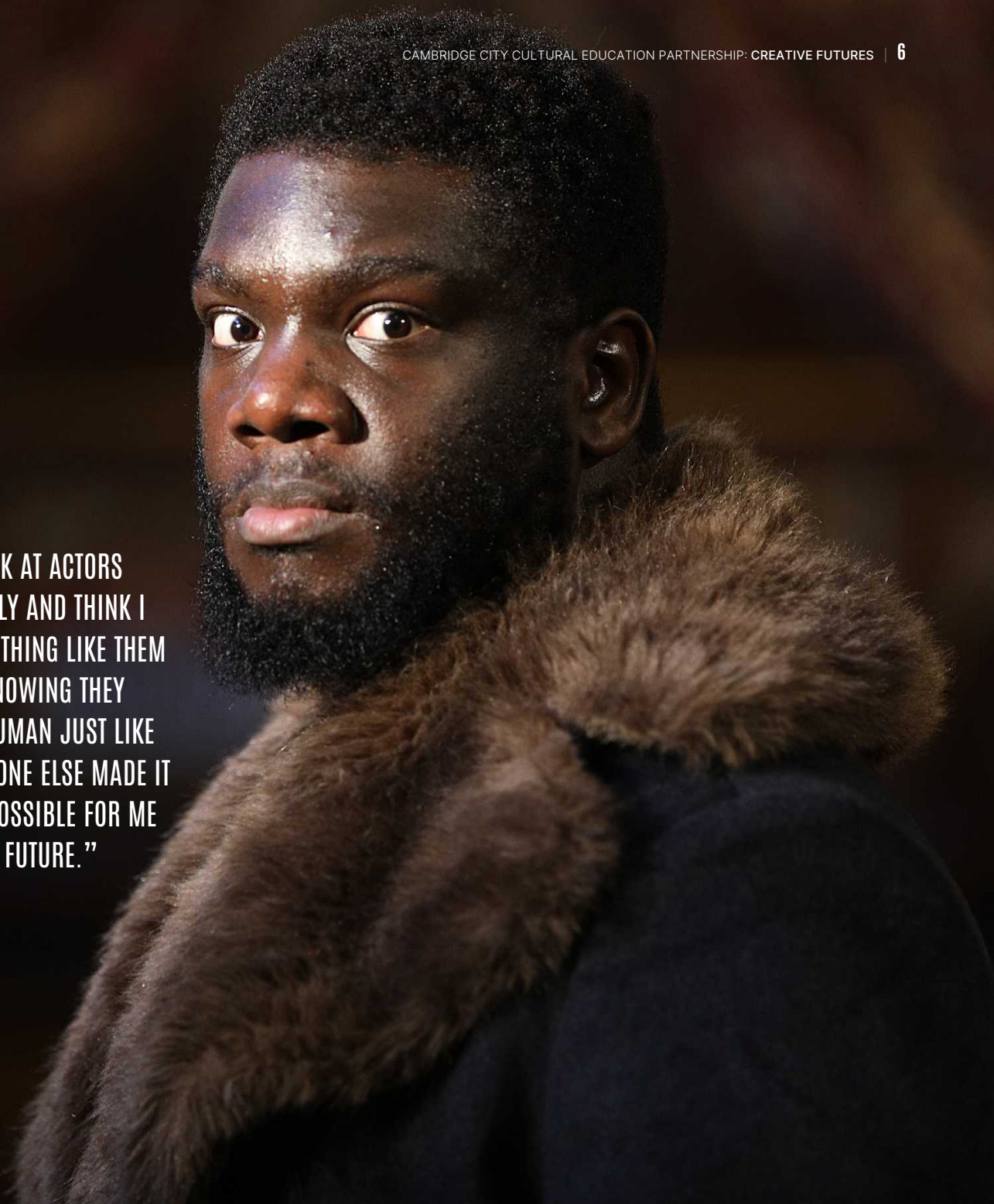
A combination of Shakespearean verse and contemporary language makes this original famous story clear and easy to follow. Punctuated effortlessly by an original soundtrack, live music, and sound effects, you will be taken on a roller-coaster of excitement, humour, and grief in this bitesize retelling of Shakespeare.

New International Encounter (NIE) is an international company that makes award-winning theatre performances and projects through a mix of physical theatre, multiple languages, live music, storytelling, and a European ensemble.

[Tour Pack](#)

[Production Trailer](#)

“I LOOK AT ACTORS
USUALLY AND THINK I
AM NOTHING LIKE THEM
BUT KNOWING THEY
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EVERYONE ELSE MADE IT
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IN THE FUTURE.”



CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION

Event: Creative Futures Industry Day

Target Audience: Year 10 – Year 13 Performing Arts


Date: Monday 1 March or Tuesday 13 July 2027

Time: 9.30am – 2.30pm

Location: Cambridge Junction

Capacity: 15 students

Bring up to 15 students to an industry day at Cambridge Junction, providing insight into the wide range of job opportunities in the arts and exposure to what happens behind the scenes. Young people are able to participate in a meet-the-staff question and answer session about entry routes, career paths, and individual experiences and to participate in 'behind-the-scenes' workshops in areas such as technical theatre, music, and theatre devising, plus a backstage tour of Cambridge Junction. Industry Days give young people an opportunity to develop insight and knowledge from those that work in the field, connecting the future creative workforce with industry professionals.



“THE CHILDREN GOT SO MUCH OUT OF TODAY. WATCHING THEM SO ENGAGED AND FOCUSED WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE!”

DANCEEAST

Event: Dance Masterclass

Target Audience: Year 7 – Year 13 Dance

Date: September 2026 – July 2027

Duration: 90 minutes or half day

Location: School

Capacity: Up to 20-30 students

A fun, high-quality, in-school workshop led by a professional DanceEast artist, designed to energise and stretch students through expert-led creative learning. Choose between a 90 minute or half day workshop:

- **Contemporary Technique & Choreography** - A dynamic movement workshop blending contemporary dance technique and creative tasks, helping students develop skills in original choreography, and build confidence in performance and composition.
- **Hip Hop Dance Workshop** - Led by professional Hip Hop artists, students explore grooves, foundations, choreography, freestyle and performance skills in an uplifting and inclusive space. Rooted in Hip Hop culture, the workshops encourage individuality, confidence, musicality and self-expression while building teamwork and creative skills.

These sessions give young people the chance to develop their own style, connect through movement and gain insight into pathways for training and performance within dance.

“IT WAS SUCH AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE TO HAVE PERFORMED IN AN INCREDIBLE VENUE WITH SUCH HISTORY. I LOVED EVERY SECOND.”

Photo: Rachel Cherry



ROYAL BALLET AND OPERA

Event: Cultural Champions

Target Audience: KS1 – KS3 Teachers

Date: Year Long Programme

Capacity: 2 teachers per school

Cultural Champions is RBO's free, accredited programme for teachers, supporting you to gain leadership skills, confidence, and strategies to implement creative and cultural learning in the classroom.

The year long programme is coming to Cambridge in 2026-2027 and will be delivered via a range of creative facilitation techniques that deepen reflective practice and incorporates a personalised research initiative that enables Cultural Champions to apply their leadership skills to their current school priorities straight away.

KS1 – KS5 Dance & Music Classroom Resources

Event: Create & Dance: Teachers CPD

Target Audience: KS1 – KS3 Teachers

Date: Thursday 11 February 2027

Time: 9am - 3pm

Location: Storey's Field Centre, CB3 1AA

Capacity: 4 teachers per school

Create & Dance offers an inclusive approach to leading dance and storytelling that helps pupils develop creative collaboration, physical learning, spatial awareness, and general health and well.

Create & Dance Trailer

These in person, award-winning, curriculum-led CPD sessions are delivered as a full day training session suitable for class teachers plus performing arts and music leads. They are accompanied with free classroom resources, featuring practical activities and lesson plans to support creative learning across the curriculum.

Event: Create & Sing: Teachers CPD

Target Audience: KS1 – KS3 Teachers

Date: Tuesday 1 December 2026

Time: 9am - 3pm

Location: Cambridgeshire Music Hub Studios

Capacity: 4 teachers per school

Create & Sing offers an inspiring approach to music-making and vocal storytelling that supports pupils in developing confidence, creativity, listening skills, and collaborative learning.

Create & Sing Trailer



TRAVEL CONTRIBUTIONS

Each school can claim up to £300 across the academic year as a contribution to travel to enable attendance at offerings within Creative Futures that take place outside of the school premises in cultural venues across the city where this would have otherwise been a barrier for engagement.

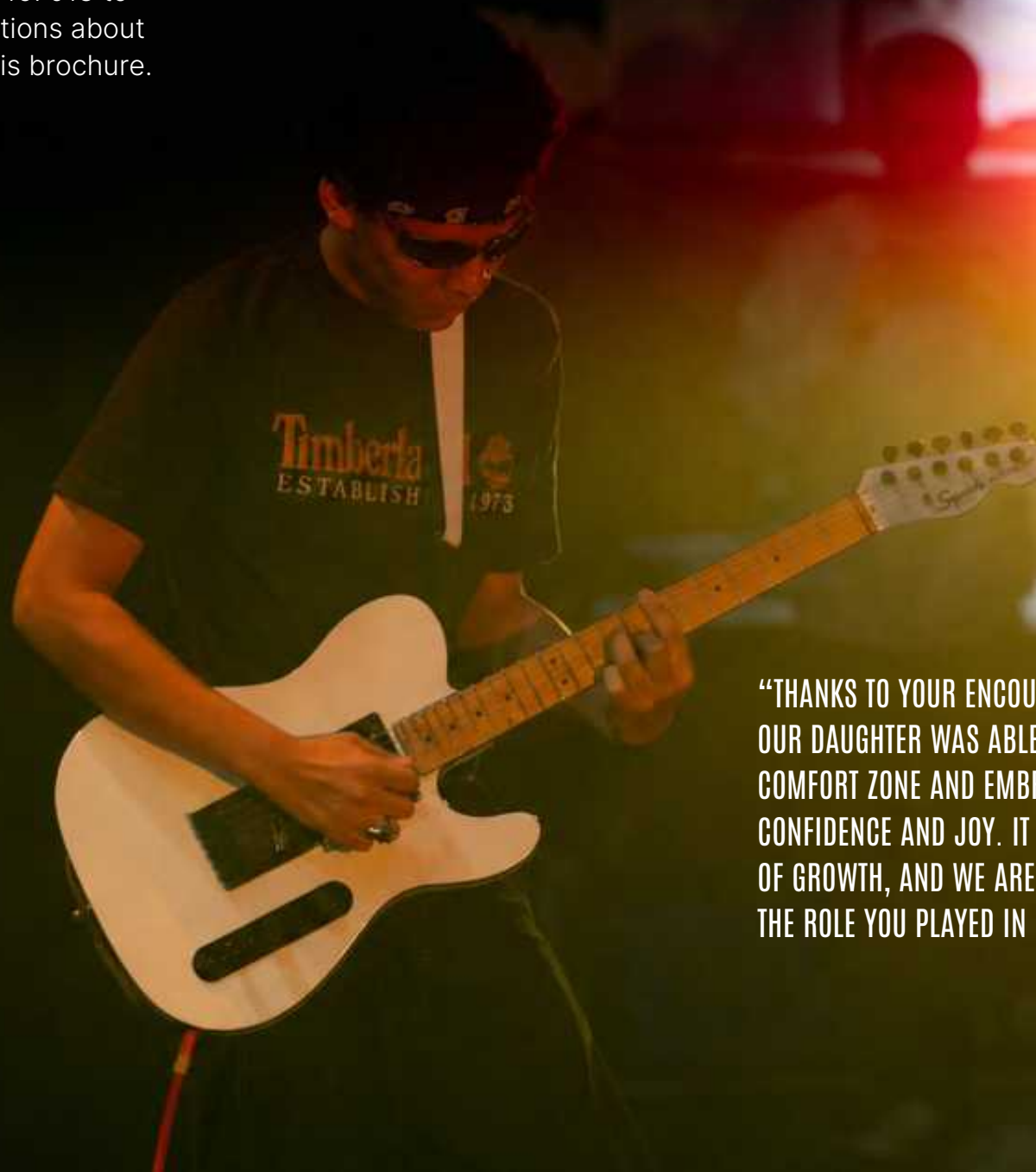
WORK EXPERIENCE

Many of the organisations dedicated to Creative Futures offer work experience placements in June and July 2027 for Year 10 and Year 12 students interested in exploring careers in the creative industries and have committed to a number of places exclusively for schools within the Cultural Education Partnership.

**“IT WAS OUTSTANDING.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
MORE OF THIS PLEASE!”**



Please contact artsandculture@cambridge.gov.uk or 01223 457018 to book or if you have any questions about any of the opportunities in this brochure.



“THANKS TO YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT, OUR DAUGHTER WAS ABLE TO STEP OUT OF HER COMFORT ZONE AND EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE WITH CONFIDENCE AND JOY. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL MOMENT OF GROWTH, AND WE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE ROLE YOU PLAYED IN MAKING IT HAPPEN”.



Creative Futures is a programme designed and delivered by Cambridge City Council's Cultural Services team in partnership with the listed cultural organisations with a shared vision to improve access and opportunity to the creative industries for all young people in the city.



CAMBRIDGE
JUNCTION



FRANTIC
ASSEMBLY