

# Tang Hall SMART CIC: Community Music and Arts



**Respect, Support, Empowerment**



**One person's success  
is everyone's celebration**



***“Without exception, the staff provide an outstanding level of care and support. They are calm and reassuring and take the time to get to know each and every young person, valuing their differences. Nothing is too much trouble. But more importantly they do all this while creating a happy and relaxed atmosphere.” - (current parent)***

## Tang Hall SMART: Sport - Music - Arts - Recreation - Training

Tang Hall SMART Community Interest Company is a York-based social enterprise, specialising in music and the performing and creative arts.

We were established in 2014 by Sue Williamson, a former teacher at Burnholme Community College, and since then we have developed our alternative college for young people with additional needs, to become the 'go-to' place for post-16 students who enjoy music, art, drama, dance or sport.

In addition to our educational programmes and classes, we also deliver employability training for the music and arts industries, plus community clubs and events.

We operate from our two sites: The Centre at Burnholme and The Jam Factory. The Centre at Burnholme houses Tang Hall Explore library and cafe, as well as other community organisations, and we have a suite of rooms including a workshop and recording studio.

The Jam Factory is a unique and atmospheric cluster of rehearsal rooms with a recording studio in The Groves.

Tang Hall SMART is proud to be part of the City of York Council Local Offer of Learning for 16–25-year-olds, offering a Personalised Learning Programme, tailored to the individual student.

We are experienced in educating students who are autistic, who have learning differences, who are experiencing mental health difficulties – and we have a proven track-record supporting people into paid work, voluntary work, and higher education.



***“Tang Hall SMART has such a supportive environment, for both learners/participants and staff. I feel so valued here and it’s such a great thing to see the learners develop and progress, as people and in their studies. It’s the best job ever and it doesn’t really feel like work!” – (staff)***

## Post-16 Individualised Learning Programme: 'Smart-Ways'

The core music/arts programme is suitable for young people who are enthusiastic about music and/or the arts, and who wish to follow a music or arts pathway.

Applicants must be able to benefit from a study programme that is aimed at Level 1, 2 or 3. Our courses are vocational and are ideal for progression into music/arts employability training, and beyond that, into employment or Higher Education.

We are also offering a Level 1 sports programme from September 2023 for young people who wish to pursue a career in this area. Each core programme lasts for 14 hours per week spread over three or four days, with additional English and Maths Functional Skills where applicable.

There are also opportunities to extend the programme to four days per week by studying Independent Living Skills.

Students on music/arts pathways can opt to have sports sessions added to their programme to benefit health and fitness.

All Smart-Ways Programmes are initially for one year, with many progressing to a second year if a longer period of study is needed to complete the intended outcomes, for example if someone is registered for a Full Level 3 Diploma. In some cases, students remain with us for longer, if their objective is to gain employment in the music/arts industries.

We welcome applications from students who have EHCPs, and who live in the York area. We also welcome students who have private funding, or who are registered at a mainstream college or school, willing to arrange for some of the student's education to be with us.

***“Being part of Tang Hall SMART is more than just doing a qualification or course, it's about learning life skills and socialising with friends. It's also good fun to learn, because the staff are friendly and very knowledgeable in what they do. It feels like a big family or community when we all work together” – (current student)***

## Care and support

We believe that EVERYONE is equal and different, with their own strengths and needs, and with the ability to develop. The Tang Hall SMART community is made up of relationships characterised by mutual respect. We promote wellbeing, personal development, and independence. Our work is person-centred, responsive, and positive.

We have a very welcoming and supportive team of staff, all of whom can be approached, but sometimes a more personal/ bespoke approach will be needed, for which reason we provide mentoring and off-loading sessions. These are arranged by Graham, our Key Support Worker, or by Hayley, our EHCP Lead.



## Support for transition

The transition from KS4 to Post-16 Education is an important stage of life, and an opportunity for students to develop their ability to manage change.

We understand however that students with additional needs are more likely to find this stressful, and that some can be anxious about the changes in routines, buildings, and friends. If a student finds the thought of this kind of change difficult, we can offer a bespoke access programme to structure a successful transition.

*“When I think about the staff at THS, I think that kindness, professionalism and passion run deep, from the management through to the tutors and support workers and then onto the students. They encourage our son to express himself in his own way musically which he loves! Not everyone can appreciate Grunge!” – (current parent)*

## Qualifications

As a registered exam centre for RSL - we are proud to deliver music, performing arts and creative arts qualifications at Level 1, 2 and 3. These have equivalency with GCSEs and A Levels. We have been delivering qualifications for over 8 years, and have worked with 100s of students, each with additional needs.

2021-2 was our best year yet for attainment. We had a cohort of students completing a new qualification in *Combined Creative and Performing Arts*. Some students studied at Level 1, and some at Level 2, choosing from a combination of art, dance, drama, music, and workshop skills.

There were also 13 x Level 3 students, all of whom passed either their Level 3 Music



Subsidiary Diploma, or their Level 3 Music Full Diploma. Over half of these students gained distinction or distinction plus.

At the end of the current year of study, in addition to the above programmes we will have students completing Level 3 Art.

We teach Functional Skills in numeracy and literacy to students who are working towards national benchmarks and have a small team of dedicated staff who deliver sessions in small groups.

*“The staff at THS are an amazingly talented bunch of professionals. They have a ‘you bet you can!’ attitude - encouraging, supportive & passionate. From the very beginning Sue thought our son could pass not only his level 2 Music Performance but his Level 3 too! Raising our son who has a significant learning disability (Williams Syndrome) who struggles with basic reading and writing, any kind of qualification was just unthinkable. Anyway, 3 years later they ran with the unthinkable, they nurtured his love of music, and turned it into something he can be forever proud of. Did our son pass his Level 3? You bet he did! He is now currently on year 4 studying to become a music support worker and we couldn’t be more proud of him.” – (current parents)*

## Enrichment

We can offer a variety of options to enrich the curriculum, to help students to achieve further, learn new skills or simply to have fun and possibly find a new hobby or friends.

Students can opt to take a minor course alongside a major pathway. For example, it is possible to study a Level 3 Art or Music Diploma, but then take an extra course in Drama or Electronics/Workshop.

We have a digital college, SMART SPACE, and our students can be assigned on-line courses to take in addition to their on-site programme. Currently we offer digital courses in film studies, urban arts, singing, beat-making, cooking, drama, dance and more... as well as a large variety of instrumental courses from beginners to advanced.



We run termly concerts that students participate in as performers or as part of the technical crew, a yearly sports fair, and there are regular events such as 'Music in the Café', and 'Band Night' – that our students can attend.

Extra curricular visits are often arranged. Last year these included University of York's Symphony Orchestra Concert at the Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall, a trip to the Joseph Rowntree Theatre to see how things worked behind the scenes, and a workshop at Warhammer.

***"I love working for Tang Hall SMART! Everything about it from the strong ethos and values that underpins our wonderful organisation to the amazing learners and staff! We are bespoke, visionary and the fantastic outcomes speak for themselves. I feel super proud to work with such a talented bunch and to know that every day I go to work I am making a small contribution to the positive outcome of people's lives." – (staff)***

## Progression

All our students have a range of educational goals, but we also encourage everyone to be aware of, and in many cases be working towards employability-related outcomes too. These will be written into the EHCP review.

Once our students have completed their education, and depending on their career plans, they may wish to progress onto an extra year with

Tang Hall SMART to gain music or arts-industry employability skills and to benefit from a range of in-house and external work placements. Students who have completed Level 3 Diplomas to a high standard (Merit or above) may wish to transition to university. We have good partnerships with both York universities and can support students with the UCAS process.

*“When our son first arrived at Tang Hall SMART, he was going through a particularly hard season in life. He lacked confidence and although he had coped with his studies academically, we always felt he had so much more potential than his results showed. We have no doubt that it was because of the dedicated team at Tang Hall SMART that our son’s life turned around. Even though there were struggles, it was through their persistent and compassionate care, that we began to see him flourish. He went from a level 4 in music GCSE to a distinction star and 2 distinctions in his Level 3 Diploma. This has opened up the pathway for him to study his dream course “Composition for the Film & Games Industry” at Hertfordshire University. The confidence he gained has enabled him to make the transition into the big wide world and as parents, we will be forever indebted to Sue and the staff at Tang Hall SMART. Their passion and expertise have made what would have once been impossible, possible - for which we will always be grateful.” - (parents of former student)*

### How to apply

In the first instance, email [sue@tanghallsmart.com](mailto:sue@tanghallsmart.com) to request a meeting/phone call.

---

**The Centre @ Burnholme, Mossdale Avenue, York YO31 0HA**

---

**The Jam Factory, 106 Eldon St, York YO31 7NH**

---

**[www.tanghallsmart.com](http://www.tanghallsmart.com)**