

12th January 2012

Bev Flanagan
Vice Principle Enterprise
Wiltshire College
Salisbury
Southampton Road
Salisbury SP1 2LW

Arts Service
Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN15 3QN

Dear Bev,

Thank you for your letter received on 6 January 2012 regarding the future of the Arc Theatre, Trowbridge. Unfortunately I am writing to confirm that given the College's decision to cease the professional programme of performing arts activity, the College will no longer be eligible for regular grant support from Wiltshire Council's Arts Service from April 2012. The Arc Theatre notified the Arts Service that the last element of professional programme will take place at the end of January 2012; as a result the 2011/2012 grant payment has been adjusted accordingly.

We acknowledge that Wiltshire College has had to make tough decisions in the last year and that the College has considered a number of options for the future management of the theatre. We also acknowledge that the College has decided that the Arc will become primarily a student resource, though with some availability for the community and professional use as a venue for hire. The Arts Service would like to continue to work with Wiltshire College to engage the community in this resource and is able to offer advice and support should the College wish to consider a professional programme in the future.

Whilst not mentioned in your letter, Rachael Selly has indicated to us that the professional staff at the theatre will cease to be employed by the college in February and that one technician post will be advertised soon to support the performing arts course and community events. It would also be helpful to get clarity about the future role of the Arc Advisory Board, in particular whether the College considers the board still necessary.

In order for the Arts Service to understand what might be available to community groups, it would be helpful for us to know the charges you intend to make and what services might be available in the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the College staff for their commitment and hard work to support the Arc Theatre over the years, and we would like to offer particularly thanks to those members of the staff directly engaged in running the Arc Theatre for their hard work in these last few months. They have continued to work in a professional manner in difficult circumstances, for which they should be congratulated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries on the above.

Regards

Peter Tyas
Team Manager Arts and Archives
Direct line: 01249 70 5534 | Email: peter.tyas@wiltshire.gov.uk

Cc' Niki Lewis, Service Director Communities, Libraries, Heritage and Arts
Cllr. Wheeler, Cabinet Member for Campus Development and Culture
Cllr. Alan Macrae, Portfolio Holder for Culture