

The Kids Wanna Rock!

Have you ever dreamed of being a rock star? Ever wanted to be part of a band and play gigs, but are too shy to do it or just don't know how to go about it? Well look no further than Rockschoools, a wonderful initiative in the South Northamptonshire area. Founded by David Taylor back in 1990, Rockschoools strives to encourage young musicians (or wannabe musicians!) to gain the social and technical skills required to play in a rock band.



themselves - who practice during sessions and who get to play gigs, concerts and enter musical competitions around the country. Students can also learn basic stage lighting and sound engineering.

A former accountant, David was forced to take a long sabbatical from work after an accident, which put him on the path to studying for a music degree. When he started giving music lessons to kids in his

that students are inspired to create music and develop confidence in their abilities. Over the years we have seen those who are shy emerge into budding stars, and individuals forge friendships that have lasted years."

David tells me the story of a shy young boy who started out as a helper at the school. Eventually he began to learn the drums and joined a band, but whenever they were due to perform on stage he would freeze and refuse to go on, despite his mother's best efforts to persuade him, and a substitute would have to hurriedly be found. After several of these episodes he finally found the courage to get up and perform and after that there was no stopping him. He started singing with the band and playing guitar and eventually went on to study music in Guildford where he recently achieved a 1st class Honours. Not too shabby for a boy who started out with crippling stage fright.

And that is the beauty of Rockschoools; it is so much more than just a music or band lesson, it is a place where children and young adults can gain confidence, grow and find out who they are.

"You need to give the young people freedom to do it themselves," says David, "give them the freedom to make mistakes and then they can learn to fly."

For more information on Rockschoools go to www.rockschoools.co.uk

Towcester t: 07738 974220
e: ros miles@rockschoools.co.uk
Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School, Balmoral Close, Towcester, Northants, NN12 6JA Saturday 12.30pm – 3pm and 3pm – 5.30pm

Brackley t: 07738974220
e: ros miles@rockschoools.co.uk
Magdalen College School, St John's Site, High Street, Brackley, Northants, NN13 7DW Tuesdays 6.30pm – 9pm

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The classes, which run in the evenings and weekends in Towcester and Brackley, offer individual tuition in electric guitar, drums, acoustic guitar, keyboard, electric bass, piano and vocals. They also offer the students the opportunity to form a band – in which they are either placed in or can form

front room, he soon realised there was a need for something more and so he began putting students together into bands, and from there Rockschoools was born.

"We have been thrilled with the success of Rockschoools. There is no doubt that Rockschoools is fun, but it is our ultimate aim

Profile of a Rockschoools student...



Name: Emily
Rockschoools: Towcester
Instrument: Electric/acoustic guitar and vocals
Band name: Awake 'Til Dawn
Type of music your band plays: Pop punk
Musical influences: My Chemical Romance, Paramore, Bring me the Horizon and Hey Violet

Why do you love Rockschoools? Rockschoools gives my band and I many great opportunities to improve and gives us the chance to perform to live audiences every term. Rockschoools also gives us time to practice every week for a solid amount of time without distraction. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who strives to be in a band because you get as much help and support as you need to perfect your performance.

Tell us about your band: Awake 'Til Dawn consists of four 15 year old females (myself, Lucy, Jess and India) who cover songs on YouTube and Instagram. Currently, Awake 'Til Dawn have over 3000 followers on Instagram and even our own merchandise! You can follow us on instagram @awaketildawn or watch our latest upload on youtube.com/awaketildawn