



# The Orpheus Centre Prospectus

Inspiring and empowering young disabled students to live fulfilling independent lives

# Orpheus

Registered Charity number: 1105213

Orpheus is a unique place where young people aged 18-25 can live, learn and develop into the individuals they want to be.

Started in 1998, by musician and lyricist Sir Richard Stilgoe, the college offers formal qualifications and work based learning within a creative environment where artistic talents can grow and the students' confidence, self esteem and skills can grow too.

Our values are around being joyful, bold, inclusive, resilient and determined and these underpin everything we do. We recognise and respect differences, we work hard to be the best we can be and do it all while we're having a lot of fun!

The students support each other, share their views and are listened to and many alumni continue to work with us after they leave as volunteers or performers.

### Award winning

Over recent years we have won national awards for our work in mental health and wellbeing and we are proud to have achieved the Disability Confident Leader accreditation, showing our commitment to employing disabled people.



## Learning at Orpheus

Every year we see accomplished, confident and proactive young people achieving great things.

Learning is not just focused around the classroom but goes out into the real world and looks at the issues within it to develop and nurture the students' aspirations, and encourage a sense of leadership in shaping our cultural life.

After completing their studies at Orpheus, students take their developed skills and self confidence out into the workplace and beyond.



## CEO, Dr. Rachel Black

We are delighted that you are considering applying to Orpheus.

Our aim for everyone who joins the college is that they enjoy a quality learning experience, achieve success, develop independence, build new friendships and of course have fun. We will provide a friendly, supportive and safe environment in which students will be able to study, work, live and prepare for adulthood.

We always welcome and listen to feedback and it is really important to us that students, parents and carers feel confident in giving us their views.

On behalf of the team, we all look forward to getting to know you.



## Principal, Chloe Smith

There is always something going on at Orpheus as the college grows and welcomes new students from across the country.

We are continually adapting the learning experience we offer to match the changing needs of the students who come here and for those who will join us in the future. We are ever ambitious about the curriculum, making sure that we hear the students' voices to help us shape how and what they want to learn and tailor it to changes in the workplace. There has also been a

greater increase in working with industry professionals and collaborators which allows for a more active learning approach within the wider arts community so that the young people are well equipped to access paid work in the future. The students show enormous pride in being a part of the Orpheus Centre and we are very proud of their achievements.



**Orpheus has a proven record in enabling students to gain formal qualifications, develop independence skills and improve their wellbeing.**

**97%** of students say - "I am more confident now than when I started at Orpheus"

**96%** of students say - "I am happy at Orpheus and I am enjoying my study programme"

**100%** of students would recommend Orpheus



"Really good because it is like a family home and it's amazing to be a part of this community and feel really safe and protected and helped with our lessons, your mental health and there's really good jokes"

**96%** of students say - "I have made friends at college"

**100%** of students say "I have learned a lot at college"

**91%** of students said that the wellbeing strategies have helped them feel better



## ‘What can you do now that you couldn’t when you started Orpheus?’

“I have become more independent”

“I can do my shopping”

“I can now cross the road safely”

“I feel confident doing things by myself”

“My attitude towards my body has drastically changed. I am more accepting of living life in a wheelchair”

“I feel like I can use my own voice and stand up for myself”

“Love it all. I can get my voice heard and get the mental health support that I need and I love it”

“Better maths, english, made friends, confident, happier, better listening, can believe in myself”

“I can cook and I am proud that in the future I can think independently and make choices that suit me”

# Using the Arts to succeed

We use the arts as a tool to enable students to grow their personal development, cognitive and communication skills and to achieve an overall sense of self-worth, pride and confidence. All students choose a major subject to focus on when they join and this currently includes drama, dance, music, creative arts or film and media.

Students work on whole college activities, productions and projects as well as those focussed on their chosen subject group and these often involve partnering with professional disabled artists and practitioners with public performances, exhibitions and events.

Skills are developed around technical ability, communication, creativity and problem solving, teamwork, self-regulation, peer support, professional and work skill development, punctuality and timekeeping and exploring and dealing with difficult themes.

Students follow vocational study programmes, within their major groups over years 1 & 2 and often switch groups after year 1 to develop greater depth of knowledge and experience of the professional arts world.

The arts are at the centre of everything we do. It has the power to transform lives and make positive change



## Film & Media Majors

Students learn;

- cinematic technique - studio and editing skills
- contemporary and historical styles.

They explore a wide range of film making including;

- documentary
- drama,
- interview
- green screen and animation

Their films are promoted throughout the year.

## Dance Majors

Students learn and participate in;

- Dance Technique - contemporary and historical
- professional workshops
- original work for performance.

Most recently and notably was the performance at the London Coliseum at the invitation of All England Dance in front of more than 2,000 people.

## Company Day

This is our professional work skills day when all students come together to become a professional theatre company which, twice a year, produces original work for a paying audience in the winter and summer terms. We work with five departments: Drama, Dance, Production Design (set, costume and props) and Film and Music – all collaborating on the devising of a new work or adaptation. We explore different approaches and present work that is traditional as well as experimental, site specific and immersive.

Our recent Company Day project was a short feature film *Where's Our Jobs?* A blend of interview and fictional and creative explorations of the meaningful, paid employment disabled people have access to. It is a creative and innovative approach to real life issues around the obstacles faced by disabled people to accessing work, which the students have a personal connection to. We collaborated with people including local MPs, theatre and circus companies and SES Water.

## Drama Majors

Students learn;

- acting for stage and film
- script writing
- character development
- ensemble performance.

Students spend 2 full days a week enhancing their expertise and passion for their chosen subject whilst working towards their Arts Award qualifications.



## Music Majors

Students learn;

- Technique
- contemporary and historical ideas within music.
- Creation of original compositions
- Exploration of their own interests and identity.

Music Majors regularly record and perform their work, for example at the Freemasons Hall, London, during our 25th anniversary Gala.

## Creative Arts Majors

Students learn;

- Technique
- Historical art
- Studio practice.
- The use of mediums like, photography, sculpture, painting and print.

Creative Arts Majors participate in gallery, production company and studio visits and collaborate with professional artists in new work and exhibitions.





## Our curriculum is tailored to students' individual needs and aspirations

We offer a personalised and creative project based curriculum, designed to enable the students to develop their functional skills in English and Maths alongside a wide range of skill areas. These include employment, independent living, self-advocacy, communication and social interaction, creativity and decision making.

We want students to be fully equipped with the skills, knowledge and experience to actively contribute to society and their communities.

### We support students to do this over a three year programme:

- Year 1 - Establish
- Year 2 – Develop and Grow
- Year 3 – Application

### During their time at Orpheus, students take part in:

#### Enterprise

Students create and develop enterprise businesses throughout the year, in specific vocational areas, selling products or services.

#### Independence Day

Students build independent living skills such as cooking, travel training, money management, menu planning and visiting shops.

#### Tutorials

A highly responsive programme of tutorials designed to meet the needs of students.

#### Next Stage

Reserved for the final year, students develop key skills for their transition from college. working as a final year group two days a week to effectively prepare for their futures.



## Tracking Progress

Students have their own progress file, documenting their achievements, highlights, qualifications and their changing support and therapeutic needs.

This enables us to ensure that we are stretching and challenging the students throughout their journey at Orpheus.

Students set a number of personal targets each year, linked to their Education Health and Care Plan [EHCP] areas. Targets are set by personal tutors, therapists and the Transitions team and we receive feedback from college staff and, most importantly students themselves. Students have access to online platform Padlet, at college and home and it is a great way to share their ideas and thoughts on their progress and pride in how they are developing.

# Qualifications & Success

Orpheus students achieved a 100% pass rate for their qualifications in 2022/23.

Students at Orpheus gain a range of qualifications, which meet their needs and are meaningful for their futures.

We work with a number of awarding bodies to provide this bespoke and personalised qualification offer. Below is a list of current qualifications students have access to during their three year programme.

Arts Majors	Maths	Performance Singing	3rd Year																																						
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# Activities and Clubs

Students have had a great input into many areas of the college including new extra-curricular, student led activities.

Students have been able to take ownership of the centre's spaces, to give ideas of the resources and facilities they would like.

There are currently 15 break and lunchtime clubs which support the social and emotional development of the students.



Clubs include exercise, beauty, dance fit, mindfulness, diamond art, Wii Fit, Makaton sing and sign and quiz clubs.

These facilities include a multi-use games area, relaxation tools, therapy dogs, music equipment, and many other resources.

## Outreach and Engagement

The Outreach and Engagement work supports our academic curriculum and the development of our charity. Outreach allows students, and alumni, to start conversations and collaborate with a diverse range of groups.

The results of these collaborations are an increase in confidence and the ability to acquire new skillsets that can be used for future employment. Our recent Outreach work has given students the opportunity to perform at prestigious venues such as Windsor Castle, London Coliseum, Epsom Playhouse and The Freemasons Hall in London.



# Learner Voice

Students at Orpheus feel empowered, valued and trusted, and have a greater sense of pride in helping to shape the direction of the college through giving their views and feedback.

Each and every single day there is evidence across the whole college of the value and contribution of the students' voices and it is one of the most important components in shaping the identity of The Orpheus Centre.



The Students Council meets to discuss key issues that impact all students and enables them to share their views about what's happening in the organisation from their perspective. It means there is continuous communication directly between the senior management and students and it is treated every bit as seriously as any other meeting. An extended branch of the Student Council has also been formed - the Wellbeing Forum. This group is tasked with developing ideas to improve wellbeing for students and staff across the college.



The Wellbeing Forum puts on various activities, runs a weekly wellbeing shop, and creates resources which are used by students and staff across the college to support anxiety, stress, and improve general wellbeing.

## Funky Friday

Students lead on and drive the content behind the final event of the week, Funky Friday. This is a student-led event to celebrate weekly achievements, share key messages, and showcase artistic skills through performances. It is hosted by two different students each week, with technical, lighting and sound support also provided by the students.

Funky Friday often welcomes guest speakers and also includes two wellbeing quotes, health tips, fun facts, jokes, Makaton signs and special celebrations.



# Applying For a Place

If you are considering an application for Orpheus, here is how the process works

Our assessment process will determine whether we can meet your young person's needs, keep them safe and provide the appropriate study programme to stretch and challenge them.

The assessment process starts in September when applicants may be asked to attend a face to face meeting with our admissions team. Application packs will usually be available around the end of May for entry in September of the following year. You can request an application pack by emailing [studentrecruitment@orpheus.org.uk](mailto:studentrecruitment@orpheus.org.uk)

- If successful, Orpheus will offer your young person a place at Orpheus on a personalised study programme.
- Once our offer has been accepted, Orpheus will submit costs to the Local Authority.
- Placements are confirmed, once funding from the Local Authority has been agreed.

Students follow an arts based curriculum designed to help improve confidence and independence and our programme is typically spread over a three year period.

All students have Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs), with funding provided by their respective local authority.

**64**  
STUDENTS  
ADMITTED

We are often oversubscribed which is why we are fundraising to add to our core funding and improve the centre.

**45**  
Tutors

Our tutors are dedicated to providing a great learning and development experience to all of our students.

**21**  
flats

Housing on site is available for 21 students. All other students travel into college each day.

# Safeguarding

The protection of adults at risk is a priority and safeguarding is seen to be the duty of all staff and trustees at the Orpheus Centre.

All staff are required to follow the Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Policy and all staff receive induction and regular Safeguarding training. The Orpheus Centre strives to maintain a transparent and open culture where everyone feels safe and able to share concerns. Concerns relating to safeguarding are always listened to and taken seriously. We strive also to enable students to develop their understanding of keeping safe. We work in partnership with key agencies involved, to ensure the best possible provisions and outcomes in relation to safeguarding.

## Student Safeguarding Ambassadors

The Student Safeguarding Ambassadors support the safeguarding team by sharing messages within their peer groups, and giving a helpful insight into possible challenges they may see. These students also help raise awareness of important issues among their peers such as online bullying and provide an important way for students to find help if they need it.

## Safeguarding Leads

### Sam Owen

Head of Care

### Moira Clifton

Chief Operating Officer

### Chloe Smith

Principal

### Chris Lammin

Assistant Principal  
Curriculum and Quality

### Brooke Smith

Assistant Principal  
SENCO

### Harriet Ayhan

Deputy Head Of Care

### Alex Gordon

Curriculum Manager





There are a range of facilities available for all students to use at Orpheus.



## Gym & Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

The Orpheus outdoor gym and multi-use games area, is designed to give students and staff the opportunity to get more active and support healthier lifestyles.



## Independence Hub

An important part of life is being able to cook or direct someone else to cook for you. Our Life Skills Kitchen and Independence Hub helps students learn these skills in a supportive and accessible environment.



## Recording and Music Studios

The recording studio has state of the art recording equipment, software and instruments.

The Music Studio is where students create and rehearse music from original peices, to covers and show rehearsals.



## Sensory Garden

The Orpheus sensory garden serves as a lovely peaceful space for students and staff to relax and reflect. With a soothing water feature and lovely array of flowers and herbs it's a sensory delight and a much loved space in the Orpheus grounds.



## The Barn Theatre

The Barn Theatre is an 18th century dutch barn with a traditional thatched roof. The theatre seats 75 people, the space is used daily for teaching drama and dance, as well as regularly for public performances such as the Orpheus summer productions and intensive week shows.



## Sensory Room

The Sensory Room is a wonderful space where our students can go for either some quiet time or as an additional space to hang out with their friends. It has different sensory elements such as a bubble tube, a musical bean bag and fibre optic lights. The room is open all day and all students are welcome to adjust the environment to suit their needs.



## Art Studio

The art studio at Orpheus is full of everything students need to support their creativity and bring their ideas to life!



## Canteen

The Canteen at Orpheus is a fully functioning catering service for students lunches. Our chef creates delicious meals whilst being aware of our students dietary and health needs.



## Media Space

The Media Space at Orpheus is where students go to work on filming and editing using their creativity to show off their talents.



## Creative Arts Cafe

The Creative Arts Cafe is a a great way for our students to gain real life work experience on site serving both students and staff bacon rolls, sweet treats and drinks.



## Radio Station

Rocket Radio is used for recording podcasts and eventually broadcasting LIVE!



## Onsite Accommodation

Some students come to live at Orpheus in self contained Flats, which are located in both Manor House and Centre Court onsite.

Orpheus is located in the beautiful rural area of Godstone with nature all around. The centre is an open and welcoming place whilst keeping the charm of its history. There are wonderful grounds including a lake which gets frequent visits from ducks, geese and other wildlife. All of our facilities have been updated to help suit students' and staff needs.



# Therapy Provision

We work with a number of therapists who offer a range of therapies to support students and complement the learning programme.

## Counselling Services

One to one counselling sessions are available onsite to help students to cope with the challenges life has to offer. It enables students to have a greater degree of self-awareness and understanding of themselves and others. This improves self-esteem, wellbeing and encourages individuals to build resilience.

## Speech and Language Therapy

We offer group and individual speech and language therapy sessions. This enables students to further develop their communication and social interaction skills while building self-esteem to fulfil their aspirations.

Group sessions are planned in line with our curriculum and the speech and language therapist supports staff by providing helpful resources and strategies and conducts learning walks to provide advice and guidance to staff in the classroom. Speech and language therapy takes place in the therapy room for 1:1 sessions and in the classroom for group sessions.



## Music Therapy

Students have the opportunity to participate in a small discrete group music therapy session. Rather than teaching students to play musical instruments, music therapy allows an individual the freedom to express their feelings through sounds, silences, gestures and words. Our music therapist facilitates communication and provides the space for students to acknowledge, release and explore often previously unexpressed feelings.

Through the use of co-improvised music, an alternative to the language of words is offered, which aims to develop and enable further communication, build self-esteem, and develop social interaction skills.

## Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy is available to students who require additional support to enhance their independence in tasks.

Working with students, the occupational therapist identifies all necessary resources, equipment and technology to enable them to live productive and fulfilling lives. Our occupational therapist makes recommendations to the learning environment and creates individualised programmes for students where necessary.



## The Orpheus Continuous Cycle of Wellbeing project

The Orpheus Continuous Cycle of Wellbeing project (OCCoW) was implemented as we wanted to provide effective activities, strategies and celebrations of success to support the wellbeing and mental health needs of students following the pandemic.

It is an innovative practice which inspires and nurtures students to use their own voice and empowers them to take ownership for their own wellbeing. It has evolved to enable emotional and sensory regulation, to understand that it is 'ok to not be ok', enables students to celebrate a strong sense of self-worth, and develop their motivation which is part of their lifelong learning. OCCoW combines each wellbeing activity with Zones of Regulation to provide a flexible programme created and led by our learners to support their wellbeing during and outside of the college day. OCCoW is a priority that is fundamental to our students' health and happiness, enabling students to discover activities and strategies that meet their individual needs and increase their positive focus to optimise purposeful learning. The activities provide opportunities for students to discuss their experiences, learn from their peers, showcase their work, share ideas for positive change and develop and use strategies which build on our overall work around wellbeing.



### Physiotherapy

Physiotherapy is available to students who require additional support to restore and maintain functional movement, reduce pain and promote health.

Our physiotherapist creates and shares physiotherapy programmes for students for college staff to support students to complete and they support our LSCAs to use specific moving and handling equipment for students with complex physical needs. Physiotherapy takes place in the therapy room, in students' supported housing on-site and in the Multi-Use Games Area.

### Dramatherapy

The dramatherapy space is a place where the students can be creative through dramatic play with puppets, stories and role play, subconsciously exploring their emotions and past experiences.

Dramatherapy is a practice that offers the opportunity for the student to express their thoughts and feelings, gaining a deeper understanding of one-self in a safe, contained space.



Orpheus is proud to have won national awards for our work on health and wellbeing  
NATSPEC (2022) Award for Health and Wellbeing

# Care Service

The care team is a 24 hour service, available seven days a week and is available for both day and tenant students

The team supports students with many aspects of daily life to help develop independence skills such as personal care, social support, menu planning, laundry and shopping.

The aim is to teach and support students to take responsibility and work towards a full and independent life.

For those living on site, support is available at the times when help is needed, for example personal care and showering at the start of the day, support with household jobs, medication and care at the end of the day and over night.



All students are appointed a Key Worker, who is their main point of contact for personal support. They may help with budgeting, booking appointments, planning activities or wellbeing.

After college hours, students are welcome to take part in activities that interest them through our ACTII provision and we encourage students to take part and enjoy some social time together.

Weekends might include bowling, cinema and trips to the pub or it might just be a chance to rest and relax.

Everyone can choose how they spend their time outside classroom sessions and we also offer other group activities on site such as cooking, karaoke and film nights.

## Learning Support Care Assistants

These roles are an essential part of life at Orpheus as this team provides support to students both in their flats and in the classroom.

This helps build trusting relationships with staff and enables the team to fully understand the needs of the students both inside and outside college.





## Act II

Act II is an out of hours club for students to socialise and have fun outside of college doing fun activities.

The student led activities are a great time for our students to catch up, share experience and views and just have some fun.

These include:

- Gaming clubs
- Include Choir
- Whoop Dance
- Bowling
- Sports
- Film and food nights

## Meet Alumnus Molly

Molly left Orpheus in July 2023 and she and her family shared their thoughts about the college:

*“I was nervous and excited when I started at Orpheus” says Molly. Since being at the college Molly said she can now “cook better, live on my own with some help and I’m learning to drive. The best bits were having my own flat, doing art and work experience and making friends.”*

This is what her family had to say:

*“Independent living and work experience definitely improved her self-esteem and confidence. And we must thank everyone who made it possible for her to have driving lessons. This was one of her obsessions for years and you made it possible for her. Molly has gone on to study in Brighton and she is looking forward to it because she had such a good experience of her work experience at Orpheus. We will be forever grateful to Orpheus and all the staff. It is a unique and wonderful place.”*





# Life beyond Orpheus

In their final year there is a greater emphasis on preparing students for transition into life beyond Orpheus and lots of this work happens on the Next Stage programme.

Next Stage operates in place of the majors pathways open to first and second year students. It includes a bespoke work experience programme which enables students to gain experience within industries that are tailored to their individual interests and aspirations. They also have ongoing support in securing housing which meets their needs and plenty of social development and independence opportunities. Next Stage students have additional in-house work opportunities in the form of a café and a radio station.

All students will also have stand-alone English and Maths lessons.



Rigorous initial assessment helps to identify key areas for development in these subject areas and, when delivered alongside vocational areas of interest, enables for a deeper and more relevant learning experience. Students will achieve a recognised qualification in both these subjects if applicable.

Independence lessons allow for development in key areas such as travel training, road crossing, getting about safely in the community, household skills such as cooking, among many other important skills needed to achieve greater independence. Students will achieve a recognised qualification in this and the course features many off-site visits to places such as town centres, educational life skills centres, and restaurants.



## Tutorial Programme

A robust tutorial programme, which is reactive to ongoing trends and circumstances, equips students with essential understanding of a range of key topics. Responding to daily events and key safeguarding or pastoral needs, the programme is sequenced to enlighten and challenge students about a selection of vital topics.

Topics that have been a part of the programme throughout 2022-23 have included friendships, relationships, bullying, consent, sex, online safety, Prevent awareness, radicalisation and road safety. Resources for this programme are communicated on a weekly basis to all parents and guardians who then have a chance to reinforce learning messages and support the development of the tutorial programme.

# Careers

All students have access to impartial one to one career guidance during the academic year.

## Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Students explore their aspirations, skills set and gaps in their learning. Students meet with our work experience coordinator to complete a vocational profile, which specifies individuals' aspirations and support requirements within a work environment. In the students' final year there is a specific focus on them having a substantial placement in the community in the form of a supported internship, work placement or work related activity.

'On the job' support is provided at work placements to develop employability skills and promote independence.



External partnerships are developed to source meaningful opportunities within a variety of industries. This includes work related visits, which is a great opportunity for students to gain an insight into different vocational opportunities within an organisation.

We organise for guest speakers to attend the college to meet with the students, discuss their areas of expertise and gives the students the chance to ask questions.



## Planning for life after Orpheus

When students are in their final year, they work more intensely with the Transitions team to discuss all the areas of their future. This opportunity develops a plan outlining what the student wants to do in the community and identify a pathway for their continued journey.

## Ongoing support

When a student leaves, Orpheus will provide information, guidance and support for a minimum six months, as directed by the student. This extended support service ensures that students have a smooth and seamless transition to the next stages of their journey after Orpheus. Extended support encompasses regular check ins with the student and support network to ensure that life aspirations are met, as identified within their plan as well as further opportunities within their chosen communities.



## Careers: Meet Sam

Sam is incredibly hard working and passionate about dance. He attends classes after college and accesses online courses with professional dance companies like Candoco.

Sam's aspiration for the future is to become a dance tutor and run his own dance workshops for children.

Sam applied for the Unexpected Leaders programme run by the performance company Diverse City. He went through an application process and was interviewed by a panel. Sam was accepted on the programme, something he was incredibly proud of.

During the programme Sam has access to an online programme of workshops and speakers, coaching, mentoring and the opportunity to develop his own work. Sam is currently in the process of creating his dance workshop.

Recently Sam led his first dance session for his peers, co-teaching alongside his mentor.

Last year, Sam secured a placement to shadow workshops lead by professional tutors from Synergy Dance. This opportunity allowed him to experience three different workshops for young children with and without disabilities aged from 5 to 18.





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and events!



# Orpheus Carol Concert

11 December 2024, 7:30pm

St John's Church, Redhill

Join us for a candlelit carol concert featuring live performances, special guest readings and songs followed by mulled wine, mince pies and festive market stalls. All within the beautiful and historic St John's Church.

Premium Tickets £20

General Admission £15

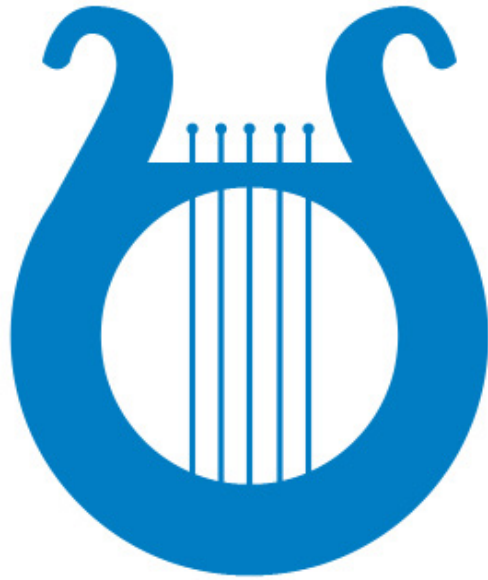
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With our dear friend  
Linda Bassett (BBC's  
Call the Midwife)

Orpheus  
Registered charity no: 1105213





The Orpheus Centre,  
North Park Lane,  
Godstone  
RH9 8ND  
01883 744664



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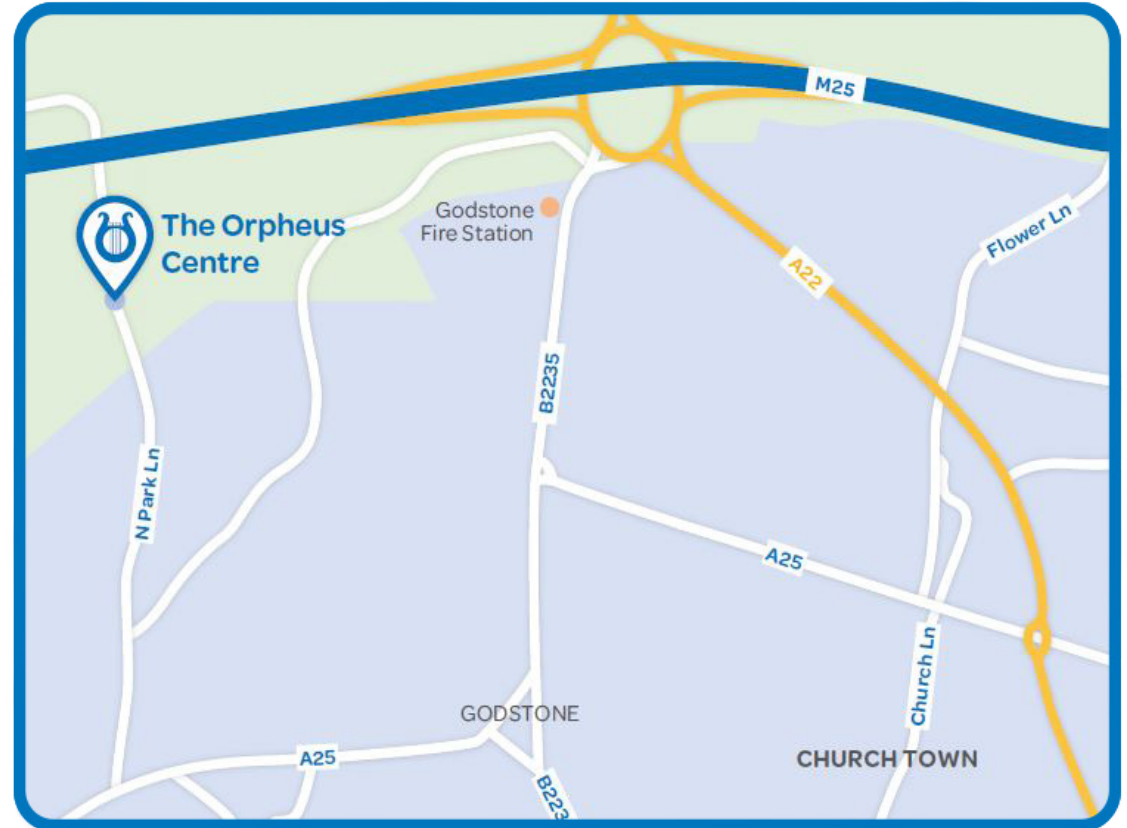
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**ORPHEUS.ORG.UK**

Registered Charity Number: 1105213



### Travelling By Train

The nearest railway stations are Caterham, Redhill and Oxted. Caterham and Redhill are the best for wheelchair access.

Redhill is the busiest and has the most reliable service. Taxis are available outside all of these stations.

### Travelling By Bus

There is a bus stop at the beginning of North Park Lane. Bus routes 400 and 410 stop at this stop. There is no road crossing, so please be careful.

The Orpheus Centre is about a 10-15 minute walk up North Park Lane.