Creating sustainable arts activity through partnership working

Samuel, aged 7:

"I really enjoyed working together with my friends and learning new dances in a fun way!"

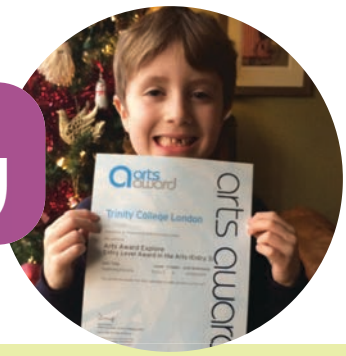

Photo © St Thomas & St Anne's Primary School

Spring Term: Dates for you Diary...

ON YOUR ARTSMARK JOURNEY		
Impact and Evaluation Case Study Support session	21 March	For those who have submitted a Statement of Commitment and are thinking about how to evidence achievement.
Case Study Surgery	21 March	This workshop is for those who have submitted a Statement of Commitment, completed the majority of intended activity and are writing their Case Study.
Case Study Submission Deadlines	29 March 5 May, 13 July	Last opportunity to submit your Case Study this academic year.
LOCAL CULTURAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS		
Cannock Chase LCEP	15 March, 3.30pm, Cannock Library	Work with arts, cultural and heritage partners to improve the quality and access to arts and culture for children and young people.
Tamworth LCEP Launch	2 July, 12.00 - 4.00pm, Bolehall Manor Club	Marketplace to network with arts, cultural and heritage artists and organisations, come along for lunch and workshops on how the LCEP can develop more opportunities for children and schools in Tamworth.
OTHER EVENTS		
West Midlands Secondary Art Teachers' Network	28 March, 4.00pm, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts	A must attend FREE event for all West Midlands Secondary Art Teachers. The Secondary Art Teachers' network meets once a term for CPD, support and advice.
Seminar: Spaces of the Imagination for Early Years	23 April, 9.45am - 4.15pm.	Explore the use of playfulness in developing creativity in early years, for both inside and outside environments. £30 bookings via: **lisa.oconnor@bnstsa.org.uk**
Arts Connect Tea Party	28 June	Meet arts organisations, museums and artists who are delivering fantastic education programmes. Register your interest **artsconnectwm@wlv.ac.uk**

Dates and events may be subject to change. All the events unless stated are held at the Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham. Visit www.artsconnect.co.uk to book your place.

Talk to our Team...

Rob Elkington
Director, Arts Connect
rob.elkington@wlv.ac.uk

Pepita Hanna
Associate Director, Partnerships and Investment
pepita.hanna@wlv.ac.uk

Helen Frost
Senior Programme Manager: Artsmark
helen.frost@wlv.ac.uk

Becky Thompson
Arts Award Manager (P/T)
R.Thompson6@wlv.ac.uk

Arts Connect, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham B12 9QH

T: **0121 446 3204** E: **artsconnectwm@wlv.ac.uk**

Sign up for our newsletter: www.**artsconnect.co.uk**

artsconnectwestmids **artsconnectwm**

Supported by UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Photo Jack Spicer Adams © Arts Connect

News for Schools

arts connect

SPRING 2018

Photo © Claire Riley - Lordswood Girls School

Creative Thinking to Sustain Arts Provision

Being an art teacher is one of the best jobs in the world but in the current climate of budget cuts and curriculum changes, the arts are vulnerable. Our Headteacher is committed to offering creative subjects as part of the curriculum and so we have thought creatively about sustaining arts provision.

Over the past year I strengthened our links with arts organisations in Birmingham and we launched a 'Friends of the Arts' scheme which parents sign up to for an annual fee. Members are given discounted opportunities to take part in the arts at venues across Birmingham and subscription money is used to offer students a subsidised Arts Award programme, buy new equipment for the art, music and drama departments and pay for artists to come in. We have taken part in the Crafts Council *Make Your Future* programme and RIBA's architecture project. With support from Arts Connect we are working towards gaining our Artsmark and I sit on Arts Connect's Executive Group for their West Midlands Secondary Teachers' Arts Network.

Working with Arts Connect has increased the opportunities I can offer my students; it has also helped me progress professionally, developing links with key figures in the arts in Birmingham, sharing ideas with other arts professionals, developing new projects and skills and offering my expertise.

Pressure on curriculum time means that at KS3 we have had to develop a way to embed a broad range of artistic skills to a level that, should students opt to continue to GCSE, they are not only competent artists but confident decision makers. Our KS3 schemes of work are structured to reflect GCSE specification and this allows students to make creative choices, developing work that is personal and meaningful. We have seen an increase in students opting for GCSE Art or Photography and currently have 50% of the year studying one or more of these subjects.

The arts play an extremely important part in developing students' confidence, language and problem solving skills and can support emotional wellbeing. The transferable skills that are taught within art lessons are those that students need to succeed in all subjects and in life itself; the ability to think creatively around a topic, to communicate new ideas and develop existing ideas, to analyse imagery, text and meaning, to reflect on work and identify strengths and weaknesses before refining the outcomes, to develop resilience and recognise that mistakes are an important part of learning. Most importantly, the arts can transcend the challenges of 21st century education and ignite in students a passion for learning which we hope will last a lifetime.

Karen Tooley

is Lead Professional in Art at Lordswood Academies Trust, Birmingham. She studied Art at the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design and has been at Lordswood Girls' school since 2004. Karen is a trustee for an education charity in Ghana and for nine years has spent time in the summer there teaching nursery and primary children.

Creating sustainable arts activity through partnership working

Arts Connect's Arts Ambassador School Network programme supports schools to develop great arts experiences for children. We offer professional development for teachers, enable schools to achieve Artsmark, introduce Arts Award and develop teachers and children as Arts Ambassadors.

Our Partnership Investment (PI) programme enables longer term partnerships to create sustainable models of school networks. Networks focus on high quality arts activity integrated into the curriculum and develop leaders to champion the arts.

The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust

The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust, Birmingham, has an Arts Ambassador School Network; Shirestone Primary Academy is part of this network.

Shirestone Primary Academy

Nadeem Bashir, Principal of Shirestone Primary Academy was keen to develop children as leaders. Children applied to be Young Arts Ambassadors and six were appointed. The Young Arts Ambassadors regularly met with Nadeem, attended staff meetings and Student Councils to help shape arts activity. They visited classrooms to develop an interest in the arts amongst the other children. The Young Arts Ambassadors developed confidence, were committed to their roles and generated excitement about the new programme. They were involved in interviewing the artists who would work for the network and contributed to the selection of *Infuse Dance*. Working with other Young Arts Ambassadors from across the network they created an Arts Action Plan for each school. As a direct result of the programme and the Young Arts Ambassadors work, Nadeem decided that Golden Time would be entirely arts based. The Young Arts Ambassadors also inspired other children to audition for the school play and for the first time the entire school was involved.

Nadeem said ***'Being part of a network is fantastic, we shared ideas and resources and worked together to achieve Artsmark. As a supporter of the arts I am incredibly proud of our children's work and hugely impressed at how creative and inspired their ideas have been.'***

The Creative Connections Network

Creative Connections is a network of 10 schools in Birmingham, led by Hillstone Primary School. The network grew through Partnership Investment from Arts Connect and continues to thrive and expand its ambition.

Photo © Shirestone Primary Academy

Hillstone Primary School

"Hillstone already valued the arts but working as part of Creative Connections has stretched us. We have a shared vision and a forum to support, stimulate, inspire, build confidence, share expertise, share workload, work to common goals and deadlines and ensure that children receive a developing experience in the arts.

With an arts-rich curriculum, where learning is joined up, we believe children have a more positive attitude to school and learning. Evidence to support this includes attendance, punctuality, behaviour and the positive impact on results in core subjects.

The Young Arts Ambassadors programme gives children a real voice and makes the work relevant to them.

Working with artists is now ingrained within the curriculum and often arts organisations invite us to work with them as they know we value their expertise and work together in partnership. They offer many extra opportunities to our children. Inspectors always comment on the feeling of excitement and positivity they get in our school, a direct result of our arts programme."

Keith Farr, Assistant Headteacher and Creative Connections Network Lead

Jayden and Makaila - Y3 Young Arts Ambassadors Hillstone Primary School

"It's fun working with other schools. In the summer we all put on a performance "Traditions" at The Ruddock Performing Arts Centre. It made us all feel really special.

We get exciting arts opportunities and work with real artists! At Hillstone we are learning to become proper artists. We are looking forward to starting Arts Award."

Photos © Hillstone Primary School

Contact us now to find out more about becoming a member of our **Arts Ambassador School Network programme** or our **Partnership Investment programme**, we would love to hear from you. Speak to **Pepita Hanna, pepita.hanna@wlv.ac.uk** or call **0121 446 3204**.

Creating sustainable arts activity through partnership working

Artsmark and Dance

One Dance UK (the leading industry body for dance) represent just one of the many organisations that can support you in placing excellence at the heart of your cultural education and ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum.

Photo © Andrew Ford

Photo © Brian Slater

ARTSMARK LEVELLED SCHOOLS
Congratulations!
Well done to the 41 West Midlands schools who have achieved their Artsmark. Find schools on their Artsmark journey here **www.artsmark.org.uk/schools-their-artsmark-journey**

"In 2016, One Dance UK developed a programme to support primary schools in the West Midlands with dance provision. It involved schools that were embarking on their Artsmark journey and had identified dance as an area of development. We focused on upskilling primary school teachers through twilight CPD sessions and encouraging them to share their practice by presenting dance pieces involving groups of schools.

We recognised that alongside the CPD, teachers needed more support with aligning the requirements of the Artsmark with the types of activities that dance can bring to pupils. We developed new guidance that links the Artsmark Self-Assessment Tool with dance specific ideas and examples that a school can develop.

This guidance is available to download for free from **www.onedanceuk.org**"

Claire Somerville,
Head of Children & Young People's Dance, One Dance UK

Artsmark can make a huge difference to your school. Contact us now to get started, we would love to hear from you. Speak to **Helen Frost, helen.frost@wlv.ac.uk** or call **0121 446 3204**

Arts Award and Dance

Young people can engage in many different art forms when participating in Arts Awards, dance is a popular way to get young people active and engaged.

"At St Thomas & St Anne's Primary School, Shropshire our Yr3/4 class worked with dance artist, Rachel Liggitt, in workshops linked to our curriculum theme of 'Fashion through the Ages'. The class worked towards their Arts Award Explore, completing part A through dance techniques and weekly music lessons. For part B pupils interviewed Rachel and researched a local arts centre and theatre. For part C they created a dance routine. For part D each pupil presented to a Yr1/2 pupil, explaining what they had achieved and learnt through their Explore journey.

Arts Award is a great framework for developing artistic skills within curriculum time and also to develop communication, teamwork and build upon pupil's confidence."

Judy McFall, Governor at St Thomas & St Anne's Primary School, and Arts Award adviser

Arts Award can make a huge difference to your school. Contact us now to get started, we would love to hear from you. Speak to **Becky Thompson, R.Thompson6@wlv.ac.uk** or call **0121 446 3204**