



WELCOME

Welcome to this, our first issue of Arts News, a termly update featuring some of the arts activities in which schools across Anglian Learning have been engaging.

We believe the arts are important as part of a broad and balanced education, and this commitment is recognised in the partnership agreement we hold with Arts Council England.

In this issue, contributors share some arts news highlights from six of our schools.

We hope you enjoy reading about these. Look out for more news in future issues.

Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager, Anglian Learning

Earth & Water Exhibition at Sawston Village College

Here at Sawston Village College, we are keen advocates of Henry Morris' vision for 'lifelong learning' and are very proud of our Adult Learning programme, which caters for our local and surrounding communities.

Who was Henry Morris?

Henry Morris (1889-1961) was an education pioneer who, as Chief Education Officer for Cambridgeshire, founded the village college movement and developed the idea of 'community education', based on the belief that education should be a lifelong process, available to all.




Sawston Village College
Adult Learning presents...

EARTH & WATER

An exhibition featuring the work of our Ceramics and Watercolours adult learners.

Wednesday 3rd July
5.00pm-8.00pm
Location: Walnut Gallery
(via Main Entrance)
Refreshments available
Everyone welcome!

We recently held our first exhibition, 'Earth & Water', which showcased some of our adult learners' work from our popular Ceramics and Watercolour Painting classes. Our learners have been working very hard and were able to exhibit some fantastic pieces of work, and we were delighted to be able to celebrate their achievements

and share them with the wider community. Despite many learners feeling a little apprehensive about the prospect of displaying their work publicly, the general consensus was that it was a hugely positive experience and one that many would like to repeat.

Visitors were very complimentary and extremely impressed with the standard of work on display, even persuading one of our learners to sell one of her items!

Our tutors, Lisa Ghigini (Ceramics) and Clare Basel (Watercolours), said that it was a fabulous experience for learners to be able to display their work in a supportive environment and as part of a larger group exhibition. They felt that the experience will have given the learners a big confidence boost and will, hopefully, give them the conviction and motivation to exhibit their work again in the future.

We now want to explore exhibiting work as part of Cambridge Open Studios next year, so watch this space!

Catherine Hayes, Adult Learning Manager, Sawston Village College

Footprints Creativity Week at Linton Village College

We were very honoured to welcome Michael Rosen into Linton Village College to launch our Creativity Week. He arrived to the sound of Year 7s singing 'Nothing is Forever', a song written using lyrics from one of his poems about refugees. Then he gave a wonderfully engaging poetry workshop, performing some of his funnier poems and then some more serious poems on the theme of Footprints. He wrote poetry alongside the Year 7s and inspired all of the students to get writing to talk about themes of home, hope and togetherness.

Following Michael Rosen's launch, students worked to interpret the theme of Footprints across the curriculum. It was great to see the range of interpretations and learning across different subjects. A few examples of learning included:

- **Design and Technology:** Year 7s planned and designed a house within the boundaries of a footprint.
- **Geography:** Year 7s created their own innovative/sustainable farming strategies, linking to footprints on the land and reducing carbon footprint.
- **Religious Studies:** Year 9s considered the concept of the footprints – *imprints* – that religion leaves on the lives of believers.
- **English:** Year 7s collaborated with Michael Rosen to create a year group poem and individual poems with the overarching theme of refugees.
- **Eco Club:** Eco Club created a mural out of plastic waste to highlight the importance of reducing waste and linking this to plastic-free July.



Students were able to reflect and make connections relating to the central theme of Footprints. The impact for students' learning was the transferable skills which they were developing, in addition to their making connections across a variety of subjects based upon the same theme.

Creativity Week culminated in a celebration exhibition at the beginning of our Science and Arts evening. This work is important to us as a school to demonstrate the collaborative nature of subjects, as well as illustrating how students can respond in different ways to a central theme.

Helen Frost, Head of Dance and Helen Jukes, Head of Music, Linton Village College



Small Grains

at Stapleford Community Primary School

Stapleford Community Primary School is passionate about the arts. We are always keen to develop our established offer and curriculum design through collaboration and partnerships to facilitate a richer provision. The opportunity to work with Stapleford Granary was therefore wholeheartedly welcomed and is testament to the value we place on creativity and cultural learning.

'What happens when a primary school works closely with an arts centre?' This is the simple question at the heart of a pilot project called *Small Grains*. Every week, classes from Stapleford Community Primary School walk from the school to Stapleford Granary (an arts centre) to experience inspiring artistic and creative activities. Over 12 months, Stapleford Granary devised a series of what we hoped would be inspiring and participatory projects based around the constantly changing cultural programme at the Granary. Highly varied, these have included: watching theatrical shows, listening to live music, singing, meeting artists and experts, looking at exhibitions, painting, sketching, printing, model making and exploring the world around us. We delivered each individual project to every year group.



One year on, the project has strengthened our belief that, by experiencing the arts in this way, we can deepen the impact of arts teaching at Stapleford and empower our young people with confidence, creativity and a lifelong love for the arts. We have sought to embed our work with the Granary into our curriculum. This had a particular impact when used as a stimulus to drive our children's Arts Award journey. Through this collaboration, we have run Arts Award Discover and Explore. We are seeing the powerful effects of regular interaction between an arts centre and a primary school, and we see its impact stretching across the community.

What is Arts Award?

Arts Award is a certificate awarded to learners by Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England at five different levels, starting with Discover and Explore levels for primary schools, and continuing with Bronze, Silver and Gold levels beyond this.



We feel privileged to have been involved in this rewarding and impactful project and would like to thank Kate Romano, CEO at Stapleford Granary.

Laura Rawlings, Headteacher, and Katie Street, Art Lead, Stapleford Community Primary School

Comments from our parents:

"It's amazing that the arts are celebrated across the school, from creative activities in topics to playing music in assembly. The partnership with the Granary is really fantastic and I hope it continues."

"I feel the *Small Grains* project is a fantastic part of the curriculum. It has been a wonderful experience that my child has spoken a lot about."

"I wish we'd had something like this when I was a child... I wouldn't have been so fearful of the arts."

From a Year 3 pupil:

"What are we doing today in the magic place?"



From Kate Romano, CEO Stapleford Granary:

"One year on, the programme has strengthened my belief that there is a golden window of opportunity to introduce the wonder and significance of the arts to children, at an age when they are so receptive to new ideas and their imagination knows no limits. I hope that by experiencing the arts in 'real life' at the Granary, we can deepen the impact of arts teaching at Stapleford Community Primary School, empowering this generation of young people with the confidence, curiosity and creativity that a lifelong love of the arts brings."

Working towards Artsmark at Bottisham Village College



At Bottisham Village College we began our latest Artsmark journey in January 2023. Having previously been accredited as a Gold level school, this time our goal is to achieve Platinum certification. To achieve Platinum requires our engaging in the arts beyond our own school, as well as offering an outstanding arts provision within it.

What is Artsmark?

Artsmark is an Arts Council England accreditation for schools. It is managed by Goldsmiths, University of London, and awarded at Silver, Gold and Platinum levels. To gain accreditation, schools demonstrate commitment to arts and culture across a range of criteria.

As part of our Artsmark journey, we wanted to find a way to bring arts teachers together and share some of the amazing practice that happens every year across Anglian Learning. With support from the Trust Leadership and Arts Development team, we planned a Cultural Leadership day and, in October last year, invited creative staff from across all Anglian Learning centres to Bottisham Village College to network, collaborate, and participate in arts-specific CPD activities.



The day started with hands-on, practical sessions delivered by subject specialists, with a wide range of activities including photography, dance, printmaking and samba, so staff could develop existing skills and explore new challenges. All our session leaders were Anglian Learning staff, which meant that, in addition to exploring creative skills, groups could also discuss arts-specific pedagogy and how to adapt creative ideas to their individual schools. In the afternoon seminar sessions, staff were able to learn from Headteacher Alison Weir how the arts had transformed teaching and learning at Howard Community Academy, an Anglian Learning school, and how projects by Norfolk & Norwich Festival Connect & Create are supporting arts engagement across the Eastern region.



In keeping with the original Village College principles, we are also using our Artsmark journey to encourage music making and support young people in our local community. We have been working hard behind the scenes and in September will be launching the Bottisham Music Centre, initially as a holiday activity club but with the intention of establishing a community of young musicians who meet on a weekly basis to learn, play and perform together. Stay tuned for more details!

Jez Brewer, Head of Performing Arts, Bottisham Village College

Once Upon a Tune at Linton Heights Junior School

In June, Linton Heights' pupils had an amazing week out of their usual timetable to focus on our annual 'Creative Arts Week'. Always a valued time of the year for pupils and staff equally, our theme this year was 'Once Upon a Tune', taking inspiration from the book of the same name written and illustrated by James Mayhew. Pupils developed their collage and design skills, as well as using clay and printing inks to create a piece of art. Music and storytelling provided the soundtrack to our creativity, as each year group immersed themselves in the stories of the Sorcerer's Apprentice, Hall of the Mountain King, Scheherazade and William Tell. Further opportunities for creating shadow puppet characters, working on stop motion projects, drama performances and dance pieces allowed our pupils to explore connected themes and ideas with freedom and creativity.

Our week culminated in a visit to school from James Mayhew himself! Along with his co-illustrator and husband Toto, they worked with our Year 6 pupils in workshops during the morning, sketching whilst sharing their experiences and advice. In the afternoon, our whole school enjoyed a captivating live performance bringing together James' live illustrations with inspirational musical talents from a violin and piano recital performed by Alex Redington (violin) and Sui Chi Li (piano).



The atmosphere in our school throughout the week was so special. The 'buzz' of shared creativity, starting with the stimulus of musical stories within a single book, united our pupils and gave them the freedom to work and develop creative skills and ideas from their limitless imaginations!

Emma Mason, Music Subject Lead, Linton Heights Junior School



And finally...

We say farewell to Jackie Williams, Arts Faculty Head at The Netherhall School

Jackie Williams is stepping down after a long and successful teaching career. Here, she shares some reflections on her time at Netherhall.



We asked Jackie some questions about her career at The Netherhall School. Read on to find out what she said.

When did you first take up your teaching post at Netherhall, and how has your role developed over the time you've worked there?

I started at Netherhall in 1986, my first and only teaching post! I only intended to stay for a year, as the North - South divide seemed very different, and, at first, I longed to return to Liverpool. But now I love Cambridge, and the longer I stayed the better it became. When I came to Cambridge, there was only one platform at the station, Alex Ferguson became Manchester United's manager and Mrs Thatcher was Prime Minister. I have lived through so many changes in education, I am dizzy. I saw the first computer installed in school. I started with a chalkboard, moving with the times to a white board, then projector and now a smart TV!

What are you most proud of having achieved at Netherhall?

Where do I start? I have thoroughly enjoyed my teaching career. Through my time at Netherhall I have seen the importance of the arts celebrated and have taught a countless number of wonderful students. The number of GCSE and A Level candidates has grown over the years. We have seen the changes due to the new educational policies of the EBacc and Progress 8 but Netherhall students and families understand the importance of the creative subjects, which has made Art such an important part of Netherhall. I have seen Art students now working as successful artists and others in careers changing the world through Art. Recently, I have enjoyed seeing Netherhall take on 3D Design GCSE and A Level, which have added to the Art qualifications we run and doubled student numbers participating in the arts. This is simply a joy to see. We now have more staff inspiring future artists at Netherhall.

Can you give us one or two memories of your time at Netherhall that are likely to stay with you.

Recently, I have spent many hours sorting out and tidying, and have discovered projects and works of art that bring back so many great memories. The fashion shows were a highlight of the calendar. This started as a GCSE topic with a visit to the 'Clothes Show' and with workshops for Years 7-9. We presented the school with a night of glamour and dazzle. We have a beautiful bronze statue in the grounds created and made by Catherine Vitebsky (an ex-student) when the new build was complete. And recently I found students' work from trips to Kettle's Yard House and the drawing workshops from my early days, which brings me full circle as this week the department visited Kettle's Yard for a fabulous painting workshop.

What is the best advice ever given to you as a teacher? And what advice would you want to give to anyone embarking on a career in teaching Art?

My Year 5 primary school teacher gave me a poem called 'If' when I left. She was a wonderful teacher and she wanted me to see my potential, and said, 'If you seize the moment, you will find your feet.' This is exactly what I have done since the age of 9! I hope I have inspired many students into the art world. My daughter has followed in my footsteps in becoming an Art teacher and is preparing to take up a post in Australia this summer.

An Art teacher is a privileged opportunity to help young minds discover, expand, play and be free. This gives students the confidence to apply, review and refine and then build successfully whatever they want to do! Teaching Art is like a superpower and, when you see it in action, it is a wonderful thing. I have the pleasure of seeing such moments every day. It's a fabulous job and I have thoroughly enjoyed it.

We would also like to offer our best wishes to all the other arts staff who are leaving Anglian Learning this term.

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