



WELCOME

Welcome to this, our fifth issue of Arts News, the termly update from Anglian Learning which covers some of the exciting work in the arts taking place in our schools.

This issue highlights some of the excellent collaborative work taking place in Anglian Learning: we have a report on the Cultural Leadership event attended by arts teachers and leaders. We have an article on the wonderful partnership project which resulted

in the Tin Forest, a project involving all 11 of our primary schools and for which the impact continues as pupils complete the Discover Arts Award. We also hear about Platform 25, our joint secondary school and sixth form art exhibition and we get ready for Primary Platform 26, our forthcoming primary art exhibition, as we learn about the recent launch event at Kettle's Yard.

The arts can transform lives, and so there is much to celebrate in the work taking place in our schools.

Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager, Anglian Learning

Cultural Leadership Event

Bottisham Village College was pleased to host the third annual Cultural Leadership Event in October, with over 20 arts teachers and leaders from across Anglian Learning attending. This year the event was split into five sessions taking a different look at collaboration and building creative partnerships.

Session 1 had a dance focus, with Alison Weir, Headteacher at Howard Community Academy, sharing the experience of the Digital Primaries Programme run by DanceEast that both Howard Community Academy and The Icknield Primary School had taken part in, and Helen Frost, Head of Dance and Enrichment Lead at Linton Village College, discussing the impact of Linton Village College's working collaboratively with the Hofesh Schechter Dance Company.

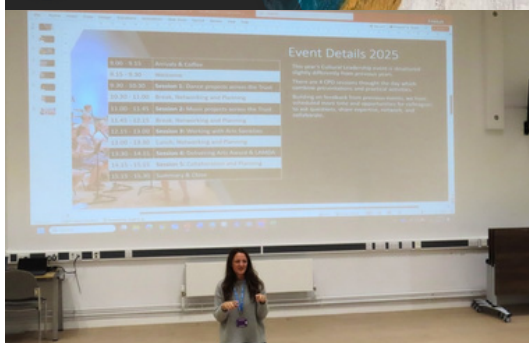
Session 2 gave attendees an opportunity to delve into Inspire25, the Tin Forest project (see page 2 for more details) led by Emma Mason, Music Subject Lead at Linton Heights Junior School, on behalf of the Trust, working in partnership with project lead, Kate Romano, Chief Executive and Artistic Director at Stapleford Granary. We are incredibly grateful to Kate Romano for guiding us through the development of this project and for sharing the creative and logistical expertise that made this collaboration possible.

In **Session 3** Emma Andrews, Music Teacher at Bottisham Village College, discussed the founding of the Bottisham Music Centre, while Lesley Morgan, Trust Arts Development Manager, and Alison Weir related their experiences of working with Arts Societies.

Session 4 began with Nick Bell, Head of Drama at Sawston Village College, discussing the benefits of offering LAMDA in school, while Katie Street, Deputy Headteacher at Stapleford Community Primary School, Lesley Morgan and Helen Frost all outlined different models for delivering Arts Award.

The final session of the day was a collaboration and planning session to explore future events to increase community engagement and the diversity of curriculum experience for pupils across Anglian Learning. All in all, the day went well, with those in attendance giving positive feedback.

**Jez Brewer, Head of Performing Arts
Bottisham Village College**



Inspire25: The Tin Forest at Stapleford Granary

Over three days in October, 520 pupils plus their teachers from our 11 Anglian Learning primary schools made the journey to Stapleford Granary to step into a musical and theatrical adventure.

The event, created uniquely for our pupils by Kate Romano (CEO and Creative Director of Stapleford Granary) and Emma Mason (Music Subject Lead, Linton Heights Junior School), was designed to inspire. From mechanical birds and human sound machines, to body percussion and group singing, every child became an integral part of the performance, which involved movement, puppetry, sound, song, imagination and more.

The unique twinning between a specialist culture and arts provider and our Trust has enabled the Granary's Small Grains project to flourish from a partnership with one primary school into a widening collaboration with a shared vision.

Our pupils were welcomed into Stapleford Granary's atmospheric foyer, ahead of entering the Concert Hall, where a bespoke soundscape and lighting sequence set the scene. The story of the Tin Forest, by author Helen Ward, was accompanied by beautiful projected illustrations by Wayne Anderson. There were no additional words, no verbal directions, no 'shushing', all instructions were given via hand signals, props, signs, demonstrations and body movements. It worked beautifully, and for 40 glorious minutes, we were all totally immersed in The Tin Forest.

Pupils and staff alike were inspired by their visit to the Granary, and once back at school, pupils reflected on their experience through further arts research and sharing of their work. This has resulted in a large, mass completion of DISCOVER Arts Awards, currently a project that is nearing completion and will be something to share next term. Watch this space...

**Emma Mason, Music Subject Lead
Linton Heights Junior School**



Platform 25 Art Exhibition

This year's Platform 25 Art Exhibition involved over 40 pieces of art from year 7 to sixth form, across Anglian Learning's seven secondary schools and sixth form. The artwork on display covered a range of techniques and media, including painting, photography, and graphite, in both traditional and more abstract styles. The private view took place on 10 November at Michaelhouse Café in Cambridge. It was an overwhelming success and a vibrant showcase of pupils' talent and creativity. The quality and depth of the pieces on display highlighted not just technical skill, but also the unique voices and perspectives of each pupil artist. Viewers commented on the originality of the work throughout the exhibition, providing a well-deserved moment in the spotlight for our budding artists. Events like this underscore the vital role that arts education plays in pupil development, building confidence and providing essential outlets for self-expression. All art teachers across the Trust are incredibly proud of all the participants and are already eagerly anticipating next year's exhibition, which promises to be just as inspiring and impactful.

**Yvonne Grainger, Head of Art
Bottisham Village College**



Left to right: Laura Sharp, Nicky Price, Jodi Myles-Baker and Yvonne Grainger

Top: Visitors at the Private View
Above: Heads of Art from Anglian Learning secondary schools

Below: Pupils with their artworks (left to right) - Laura (Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport), Kody (Bottisham Village College) and Neve (Sawston Village College)



Primary Platform 26

Launch at Kettle's Yard

Anglian Learning reached an exciting milestone with the launch of Primary Platform 26 at the inspiring Kettle's Yard gallery. This new initiative celebrates creativity, collaboration, and community across our 11 primary schools, giving younger pupils their own stage for the very first time.

Building on the success of Platform 25 for secondary schools, Primary Platform 26 will showcase artwork from Reception to Year 6 under the theme 'Belonging'; a powerful concept every child deserves to explore and express. The exhibition will take place from 6 to 8 March at the Marven Centre, Sawston Village College, featuring selected pieces from each school. A huge thank you to *Teaching Personnel* and *Vision* for their generous sponsorship in making this vision a reality.

A further three primary schools, set to join Anglian Learning in January, also took part, with everyone working with artist Dr Harold Offeh and the Kettle's Yard team. Participants explored the house and Harold's exhibition through creative activities that asked:

"What brings joy?"

"How are relationships shown?"

"What symbolises togetherness?"

They produced responses, a sound piece to represent 'welcome' and a photo to symbolise 'presence', sparking ideas for how pupils can express *belonging* back in their schools. The day culminated in the Clore Learning Studio, where Art Leads curated sketches, audio, and mixed media into collaborative artworks. This creative energy sets the stage for innovative projects across Anglian Learning.

Our ambition is clear: to make Primary Platform 26 a vibrant celebration of belonging that resonates in every classroom and every community.

Laura Rawlings, Deputy Director of Primary Education, Anglian Learning



Arts Highlights from Linton Heights Junior School

Finding our voices to sing

On Thursday, 9 October, Helen Jukes, Director of Music, Linton Village College, and Emma Mason, Music Subject Lead, Linton Heights Junior School, were excited to lead SingFest25. This annual singing event has been a highlight of our Linton schools' calendar for many years, as children in Year 2 from Linton Village College's feeder primary schools come together every Autumn term to sing. This year, children from Linton Infants, Castle Camps, Burrough Green and Great Abington Primary Schools joined 63 Linton Heights Junior School Year 5s plus Linton Village College Year 10 musicians. Each school had prepared a solo song, and Linton Heights Junior School pupils taught everyone a singing round with an autumnal theme. Linton Village College pupil, Amelie Phillips, sang a Disney Medley, accompanied by Mila Greathead on the piano. Year 10 live musicians accompanied the Year 5 song 'I am' and the finale song 'Autumn Says Hello'. We heard their instruments demonstrated as well, including a violin, a tenor saxophone and a flute.

It was a really special morning of singing and friendship, as we also made time to enjoy snacks and some social time with the 170 pupils altogether in the Sports Hall. You can hear everyone singing a song that our Year 5s taught to everyone else by [clicking here](#).

Linton Heights Junior School Choir and our Year 6 pupils have also enjoyed using their singing voices in the community this term. The Choir have taken part in two events at St Mary's Church, Linton. Firstly, performing 'Peaceful World' at the Linton Remembers: Remembrance Service and secondly performing alongside Cambridge Chorale, directed by [Robert Brooks](#), who are one of the most accomplished adult choirs in the country. The concert, which was arranged by Linton Music Series, provided inspiration for our pupils to experience in the build up to Christmas. Meanwhile, our Year 6 pupils visited two local homes for older members of our community with Mr Wilson. The annual Year 6 carol singing is a beautiful way to bring together our pupils with residents of Symonds House and Nicolls Court, singing and sharing time together.

Emma Mason, Music Subject Lead
Linton Heights Junior School

Art at the Heights

At Linton Heights Junior School, our young artists have been busy across the school. Year 3 have been inspired by their Ancient Egyptian topic to create detailed, ambitious clay thumb pots, now ready to be glazed and fired in the kiln. Meanwhile, Year 5 have produced vibrant mixed-media portraits using their own photos, oil pastels and collage, drawing inspiration from the energetic style of Chila Kumari Singh Burman. It's been a wonderfully creative term for everyone!

Hannah Sanham, Art Lead
Linton Heights Junior School



Above: Children from Linton Heights Junior School Choir. The choir joined Cambridge Chorale for a Christmas performance.



Pupils at the Remembrance Service

Finally: Congratulations to Linton Heights Junior School Year 4 teacher Max Gracie who released his Christmas song 'Hanging for the Holidays' recently. We think it's great. To judge for yourself, you can find it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikZG_4jS-G4&list=OLAK5uy_IYQ9Cn5msrP4CIPk8S1s2xqhsiFAWDby8&index=2

Linton Village College and Sawston Village College at School Big Band Concert

The jazz bands of Linton Village College and Sawston Village College joined together with Comberton and Impington Village Colleges on Saturday, 22 November for the School Big Band Concert as part of the Cambridge Jazz Festival at Storey's Field Centre in Eddington, Cambridge.

Each band played a short set to a very receptive and enthusiastic audience, and this was followed by a workshop led by Vij Prakash, where all the musicians from the different schools played together.

It was a superb opportunity for our pupils to play in a professional venue with sound and lighting and to hear and meet musicians from other local schools.

Helen Jukes, Director of Music
Linton Village College



Exploring the arts at Stour Valley Community School

On Wednesday, 1 October, we took Year 10 and 11 GCSE Art and Photography pupils to The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. They were given a portrait tour by gallery staff and encouraged to visually analyse the work in a range of ways. They then visited the Zoology museum to create observational studies of the wonderful creatures and skeletons on display.

On Wednesday, 8 October, Year 10 and 11 GCSE pupils enjoyed a Print Workshop run by Gainsborough House in Sudbury. They explored print techniques and processes, producing their own etching.

Lorna Mayes, Head of Art and Photography
Stour Valley Community School

Cinema Screening for The Icknield Primary School



Sawston Village College was delighted recently to welcome over 100 pupils from The Icknield Primary School to Sawston Cinema, the school-run operation at the Marven Centre, for a screening of *Inside Out 2*. The pupils were impeccably behaved and enjoyed the film. The screening was part of the Into Film Festival (which ran 7-28 November) and for which Sawston Cinema was a venue.

Celebrating the arts at at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport

From Classroom to Community: Young Leaders Share the Art of Voice and Body



This term we have started a series of Drama workshops on the use of voice and body which we are taking in to our feeder primary schools to encourage good practice

and to teach a strong foundation in the basic skills of Drama and presentation. We kicked off these workshops at Great Chesterford Church of England Primary Academy with workshops run for Years 1 and 6 with our Performing Arts Ambassadors Mary, Zara, Charlotte and Maya. Pupils at the primary school worked on the use of tone, projection, pace, pause and pitch within the themes they were currently working on in their lessons. Our Ambassadors were fantastic with the primary pupils and represented our school wonderfully. We plan to continue this programme and are hoping to forge stronger bonds with our feeder primary schools through this initiative.

Raesa Aniff, Head of Drama

English and Art collaboration - Classroom Display

Ms Piek and Miss Sharpe collaborated to offer a Year 10 pupil, Archie G, the opportunity to create a wall display for the English department, which focused on the theme of the set text, 'His Dark Materials - Northern Lights', by Phillip Pullman.

Archie produced the painting (shown bottom right) at home to realise Ms Piek's vision for her display. The piece is excellent and has now inspired the Art department, with Ms Piek's advice regarding the English curriculum, to make this into a longer-term collaborative project for Art Club.

This week Archie received an Art prize for his efforts in the Year 10 Assembly!

Laura Sharpe, Head of Art

Time May Pass, But We Will Never Forget: A tribute in Our Great Hall

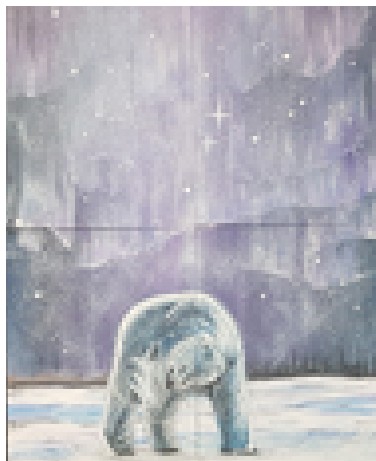
This Remembrance Day, Joyce Frankland Academy pupils came together to create a powerful and moving tribute to honour those who served and sacrificed in the two World Wars. In the heart of the school's Great Hall, where the names of fallen members of our school are etched into history, the clock now ticks again, marking time not just in minutes, but in memory. Above the names, the old wooden balcony framed the installation. From its centre, the clock stands as a symbol of remembrance brought back to life. Flowing gently from the balcony to the ground below are hundreds of handmade poppies, each crafted by our pupils. These poppies represent individual acts of reflection and gratitude, cascading like a river of remembrance down to the hall.

We named this installation "Time May Pass, But We Will Never Forget", a reminder that while years may move forward, the legacy of those who gave everything remains rooted in our hearts. Each tick of the clock is a promise: we will remember.



We invited our wider community to visit The Great Hall if visiting the academy in November. It is our hope that this inspires remembrance, conversation, and connection - across generations and beyond our academy walls. I would like to thank the pupils and

Miss Sharpe for giving us such a beautiful tribute.



Left: Painting created for the English department display by Year 10 pupil Archie.

From Moonlight to Madness: The Addams Family Bewitches at Bottisham Village College

Over three unforgettable sold-out nights, Bottisham Village College brought The Addams Family musical to life in a production that was as hilarious as it was heartfelt. With a remarkable company of 72 pupils which alternated between two casts, the show demonstrated the depth of talent, dedication and creativity thriving within our performing arts department.

From the moment the gates swung open, audiences were transported into the creepy, gothic world of the Addams clan. Both casts delivered outstanding performances, balancing sharp comedic timing with the story's unexpected warmth. Gomez and Morticia's offbeat chemistry was as charming as it was eccentric, Wednesday's transformation was portrayed with conviction and wit, and of course, Uncle Fester's moonlit antics never failed to delight the crowd. The ensemble performers, from the spectral ancestors to the wonderfully dramatic family members, brought energy, humour and depth to every scene.

Musically, the production shone, as the orchestra was exceptional. Mastering The Addams Family score is no small feat; the music is rhythmically complex, stylistically diverse, and demands absolute precision from every player. The pupils and staff rose to this challenge with remarkable skill and such confidence. Their musicianship not only supported the performers on stage but lifted the entire show, giving it the richness and vibrancy of a truly professional production. The technical team also deserves high praise. The exceptional staging and atmospheric lighting gave the true Addams aesthetic that enhanced the storytelling throughout. By the end of the run, there was an electric charge of energy; the cast were glowing with pride, the crew were celebrating their success, and audiences left talking about their favourite moments.

As Artistic Director/Performing Arts Teacher Katy Palmer reflected, "It has been an absolute pleasure to work with this cast. Both our lead casts are fantastic, and each performer brings their own unique style to their roles. The ancestors have worked hard on their musical numbers and characterisation, which has really helped create the spooky world of the show. It has been lovely to have such an incredibly supportive team of staff and pupils who have all made this process so enjoyable."

Most importantly, the show showcased what happens when a school community fully embraces ambition, creativity and teamwork. Pupils supported one another at every stage, from rehearsals to the final curtain. The production did not just entertain and impress our evening audiences; it also inspired the next generation of performers when one of our local primary schools came to watch the dress rehearsal. The Addams Family bewitched audiences with its haunting charm, showcased incredible talent, and reminded us all why the performing arts matter so deeply at Bottisham Village College.

"What an absolute triumph! I do think that it is probably one of the best evenings I have had in 32 years at Bottisham. The band was extraordinarily brilliant, performing some very complex music with real flair, supported by skilled and talented musicians, both pupils and staff.

The main characters carried the storyline so eloquently; their comic timing and superb singing were breathtaking for pupils of their age and experience. The rest of the show was brought to life by our younger chorus, along with lighting and sound that were so professional, all produced by pupils.

A huge well done to EVERYONE who was involved in any way. I am so incredibly proud of everything we achieve together." — *Principal, Jenny Rankine*

"The quality of the performance, the strength of the direction, and the overall professionalism shone throughout. It was a tremendous undertaking, but unquestionably worthwhile, not only for the pupils, who clearly thrived, and the audience, who thoroughly enjoyed it, but also for the wider community and the lasting legacy it creates for the performing arts at Bottisham Village College." — *Deputy Principal, Dom Fullman*

**Ronnie Tabrar, Teacher of Performing Arts
Bottisham Village College**

Well done to Bottisham Village College!
You can see photographs from this stunning
production on the next page.

The Addams Family at Bottisham Village College



Focus on Public Art at Sawston Village College

Sawston Village College Principal, Jonathan Russell, recently enjoyed taking former Bellbird pupils to the public unveiling of the new artwork at the South Cambridge Science Centre on Dale Manor Business Park. Together with two creative Year 9 pupils, who designed benches, the now Year 7 pupils had participated in a workshop at their primary school with the sculptor Harry Gray who designed 'The Seed' (shown right).

We hope the trip will have inspired future artists, scientists and construction workers, and that pupils will return again as adults to see their legacy.



Under the watchful eye of the artist, Principal Jonathan Russell and a year 7 pupil work on the sculpture at Dale Manor Business Park.



Strawberry Fields Public Art Commission



Recently Year 10 artists at Sawston Village College have enjoyed full day sculpture workshops with artist Michael Condron, who won the commission to create the public art at the new Strawberry Fields development in Stapleford. Pupils at Sawston have been constructing sculptures in paper and card. The artist is also conducting workshops at Stapleford Community Primary School.

**Julie De Sainte Cluque, Head of Art
Sawston Village College**

