



WELCOME

Welcome to this, our sixth 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.

In this issue, we celebrate Linton Village College's recent and well-deserved award of Artsmark Platinum, our primary school pupils achieving Arts Award Discover and the success of our inaugural joint primary art exhibition, Primary Platform 26.

In addition to this, we get a glimpse into just some of the wonderful recent performances, trips and projects taking place in our schools.

We are enormously proud of the commitment to the arts across our schools and know that this short newsletter cannot cover everything. However, we hope it gives a flavour of the work taking place.

Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager, Anglian Learning

Linton Village College receives prestigious Artsmark Platinum Award

Pupils and staff at Linton Village College are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Platinum Artsmark Award. Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It transforms teaching through creativity, empowering teachers with the skills they need to embed arts, culture and creativity across the whole curriculum, and is proven to support pupil outcomes and wellbeing.

To achieve their Artsmark Award, Linton Village College had to develop their arts and cultural provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

Over two years, Linton Village College received professional support through an immersive learning programme from Artsmark's delivery partner, Goldsmiths, University of London, who are world-renowned leaders in creative pedagogy and cultural placemaking.

The Artsmark Assessor commended Linton Village College on the strong, long-term commitment to the transformative power of the arts, which is making a difference to arts-based practice within school, and to other arts and teaching professionals within the local area. Other strengths include the wonderful student leadership programmes and opportunities, cross-curricular work, and how Linton Village College are leading practice for other professionals. The arts and science partnership with the University of Cambridge, as well as our internal support, such as the Drama and History visit to Audley End were notable successes.

On receiving the award, Principal Helena Marsh said, "We're extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark Platinum Award. We are committed to delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education. Our Artsmark award is

testament to the passion and care demonstrated by our staff team and the ambitious, inclusive and enriching opportunities that our students benefit from at Linton Village College. The arts are a fundamental part of our education experience and our culture. The Artsmark journey has chartered a course for us to provide an exceptional offer for our young people and the wider school community."

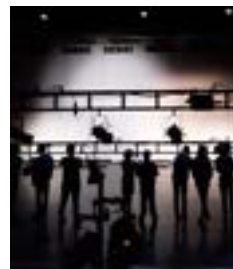
Dr Darren Henley OBE, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, said,

"I would like to congratulate Linton Village College on their Artsmark Award. Creative activities and cultural experiences enrich our lives, open our minds to new possibilities and help us make sense of the world around us. As an awarded Artsmark school, you are demonstrating that by offering a broad, ambitious and creative curriculum, your young people will develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills that will remain with them through to adult life."

Helen Frost, Head of Dance and Enrichment Lead Linton Village College



Linton Village College is committed to delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education.



Primary Platform 26

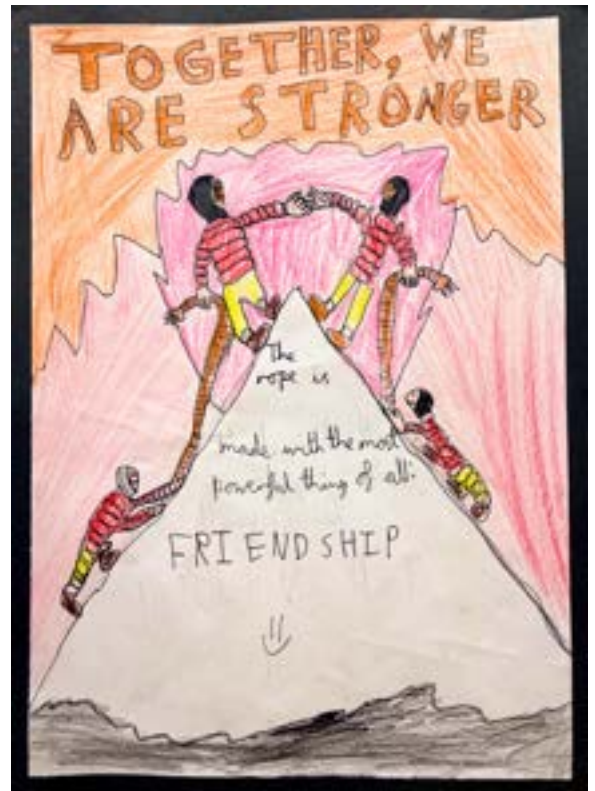
Anglian Learning was delighted to hold its inaugural Primary Platform art exhibition at the start of March. This exhibition showcased some of the excellent work taking place across our 14 primary schools. From Reception to Year 6, pupils creatively explored the theme of 'Belonging' - a powerful concept that every child deserves to consider and express.

This work supports Anglian Learning's *Belonging by Design* strategy by allowing pupils to think about how they feel included, valued, and connected within their school and wider communities. Research shows that when children experience a strong sense of belonging, their confidence, wellbeing, and engagement all increase. Primary Platform 26 was therefore a vibrant celebration of the fantastic work taking place in our primary classrooms.

The project began with an official launch at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge, where the Art Leads from all our primary schools worked alongside artist Dr Harold Offeh and the Kettle's Yard team. Following this, Art Leads developed projects in their schools and contributed a selection of artworks from these projects to the exhibition.

As part of our wider celebration of the arts, the exhibition also featured video presentations, including our Inspire25 event, *The Tin Forest.* with the film made as a result of this project being premiered at the Private View. The Tin Forest project saw over 500 pupils join forces with Stapleford Granary Arts Centre for an immersive creative experience, highlighting wonderfully the power of collaboration across our Trust schools.

Over the course of the three days the exhibition was open in the Marven Centre at Sawston Village College over 400 people visited.



Arts Award Success for our primary schools



Stapleford Community Primary School



Howard Community Academy

Following their participation in *The Tin Forest* as part of Inspire25, a collaborative project with Stapleford Granary Arts Centre, 384 pupils across our schools recently achieved Arts Award Discover.



The Pines Primary School



Bottisham Primary School



Marleigh Primary Academy



The Icknield Primary School



Marleigh Primary Academy



Linton Heights Junior School

The Icknield Primary School and Sawston Village College form productive Drama partnership

Since September, I have worked closely with The Icknield Primary School to design and deliver a targeted professional development programme for the staff at the school. The focus of this work was to support staff in using Drama as a practical classroom tool to strengthen oracy, pupil engagement, writing outcomes and inclusive practice across the curriculum.

As part of this partnership, I designed and delivered a CPD session combining both theoretical understanding and practical application. The session explored the role of Drama in supporting spoken language development, deepening comprehension and providing inclusive entry points for pupils across the curriculum.

The training introduced staff to a range of accessible strategies including still image, thought tracking, hot seating, conscience alley, teacher in role and structured Drama activities/games. These approaches were modelled as classroom-ready techniques that can be embedded within English, Humanities and wider curriculum teaching to deepen understanding before writing and provide more inclusive routes into learning for pupils.

Alongside the training, I have also produced a range of practical resources to support sustained implementation, including:

- Planning tools to help teachers structure Drama-based learning within lessons
- Pupil-friendly resources to support classroom delivery
- Dual-coded vocabulary banks to strengthen oracy and subject language development

These resources have been shared with the school, ensuring staff have ongoing materials to support embedding the pedagogical approaches introduced during the CPD.

Feedback from staff at the Icknield Primary School was extremely positive:

- 100% of participants rated the sessions as Excellent or Very Good
- 100% identified at least one strategy/approach they will implement immediately in their classroom
- Staff reported increased confidence in using Drama (average confidence score 4.1/5)
- 89% reported a strong impact on their understanding of Drama as a teaching tool

- 78% reported a strong impact on supporting pupil oracy development
- 78% reported a strong impact in providing practical classroom-ready techniques

Qualitative feedback also highlighted several key areas of anticipated pupil impact:

- Using Drama before writing to help pupils generate ideas and deepen understanding of texts
- Increasing confidence and willingness to take risks in learning
- Supporting collaboration and communication through structured group activities
- Creating opportunities for pupils to express themselves creatively and explore different perspectives



Teachers also identified clear opportunities to embed these approaches across English, Humanities and EYFS communication and language development, which aligns strongly with the school's aims to strengthen creativity, cultural awareness and inclusive classroom practice.

The feedback indicates that staff feel equipped with practical tools they can begin using immediately, which supports the development of a sustainable Drama-rich learning environment within the school.

Next steps will include sharing the final training resources with the staff team and supporting the school as they begin embedding these approaches within their curriculum planning. I will remain in contact with Diane Mitchell, Headteacher at Icknield. I intend to look for a follow up opportunity to further support the staff with planning and implementation. In addition, I am doing some more intensive work with the year 6 pupils during the summer term, helping them build towards a performance exploring the themes of identity and belonging whilst also supporting with their end of year production.

**Nick Bell, Head of Drama
Sawston Village College**

The Arts at Linton Heights Junior School

Learn To Play Event

Linton Heights held a fantastic open session for parents, carers and children on Friday, 6 February in our school hall after school. It was aimed at showcasing the instrumental opportunities available to our pupils, including access to ocarinas, recorders and ukuleles, which pupils learn as part of our school curriculum. We invited Year 2 pupils from our feeder Infant School, as well as our own pupils. The 'Learn to Play' event enabled children to show parents what they already know, and also provided the opportunity to explore different instrumental options available to them.

We were joined by Mr Zac Moore (guitar), Mrs Sally Gill (piano/voice), Ms Claire Walton (clarinet), Mr Gavin Bowyer (brass) and Mrs Emma Mason (flute/recorder), and visitors to the event were able to try a range of instruments available from our music tutors, plus violin, cello, saxophone and drums. Emma Andrews from Bottisham Music Centre supported the event too, by attending and providing further information to our families about the school holiday BMC sessions and the Saturday morning music school. Interest in both instrumental lessons and events at BMC was high, and we hope to see more uptake in both over the coming months.

Trip to West Road Concert Hall

12 Year 4 pupils visited West Road Concert Hall on Monday, 9 March. We attended a concert performed by the talented Cambridge University Wind Orchestra, who performed Modest Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition' alongside some film soundtracks including Harry Potter, Jurassic Park and Wicked! The wind orchestra conductor took time to introduce each instrument at different points in the concert, identifying the solo sound and helping the pupils to look out for them in each piece when they were being showcased. Pupils enjoyed the opportunity to hear live music performed in a professional concert hall and talked excitedly about the different instruments they saw and heard – a favourite being the oboe due to "It sounding just like a duck!".

A New Collaboration

Linton Heights are very excited about the possibilities ahead of us, as we start to explore a new partnership and collaboration. Cambridge Makers is the collective name for both Cambridge Art Makers and Cambridge Woodwind Makers; two organisations dedicated to encouraging all kinds of making, predominantly through expert-led courses, based in Linton. Our first venture is working together for our annual Creative Arts Week in the summer term, when we will be inviting tutors into school to work with our pupils on a wide range of arts projects. As the partnership begins to flourish, we'll look forward to sharing updates here.

Pottery Project

Year 5 have enjoyed becoming historians and artists through their recent pottery project inspired by Ancient Greece. Taking influence from traditional Greek vase designs, the children carefully shaped and decorated their own pots, thinking about both pattern and purpose. Some chose to include detailed animal designs, some crafted clever spouts for pouring, others created matching lids, and a number of pupils experimented with traditional coil pot techniques. The photos show the pots before and after their first firing in the kiln - the transformation in colour and texture has been wonderful to see! Next, the children will apply glaze to their creations before they are fired again, and we are all excited to see the beautiful finished pieces.

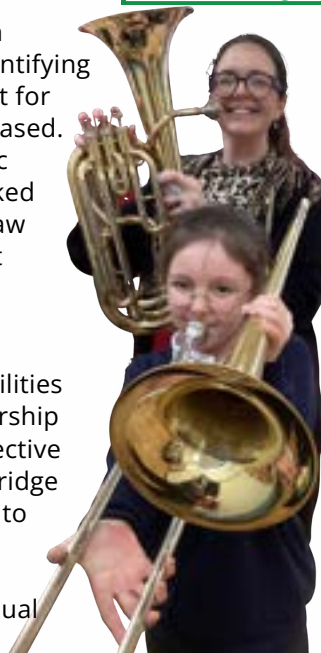


Hannah Sanham, Art Lead
Linton Heights Junior School

Young Voices 2026

Our absolute highlight of the year for Linton Heights choir. This year we took 49 children on Tuesday, 24 February to the London O2.

Approximately half of our choir were on the trip for the first time, and we never tire of seeing the pure excitement in their faces as the afternoon rehearsal builds into the phenomenal evening concert. Highlights this year included a Wicked medley and Labi Siffre classic 'Something Inside So Strong'. 64 proud parents and family from our school community attended the packed evening concert to watch us perform and we were all so impressed with the behaviour of the children, who also demonstrated their immense passion for singing. Inspirational!



Emma Mason, Music Subject Lead
Linton Heights Junior School

Netherhall students visit Tate Modern

On Wednesday, 11 February, the Netherhall Art Department headed off to London for an inspiring day at the Tate Modern - and what a day it turned out to be.

When we arrived at the iconic riverside gallery, there was a real buzz of excitement. The sheer scale of the building set the tone for the day, and students were eager to start exploring. It was fantastic to see enthusiasm from our Year 10-13 Art and 3D Design students.

One of the highlights of the day was the 'Theatre Picasso' exhibition, where students came face-to-face with works by Pablo Picasso. Seeing the range of sculpture, textiles and paintings (some never before shown in the UK) sparked conversations about scale, symbolism and experimentation.

We also explored a range of other exhibitions throughout the gallery. The students roaming freely exploring the works of other famous artists like Giacometti and Andy Warhol bringing back memories of their KS3 projects.

Throughout the day, many students were fully engaged - moving thoughtfully through the spaces, discussing ideas in small groups and taking time to sketch and photograph artists work.

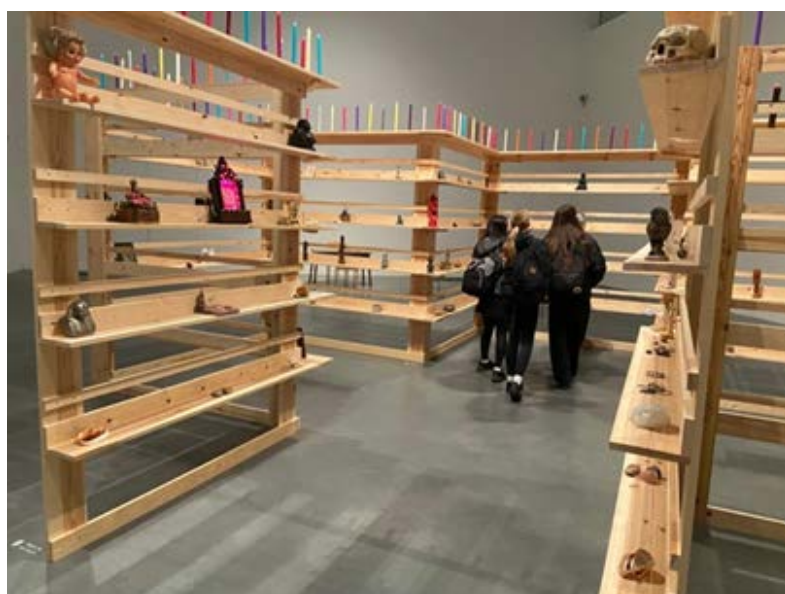
Not only was it an incredibly inspiring experience, but our students represented Netherhall brilliantly. They were respectful, mature and a credit to the school always.

We can't wait to see how the students' independent projects will benefit from seeing such a broad range of inspiring work.

On the whole, it was an amazing day - packed with creativity, curiosity and inspiration - and one that will undoubtedly have an enriching impact on their GCSE and A Level work.

Thank you from the Netherhall Art team.

Alice Richards, Art Technician
The Netherhall School



Carnival of Comedy:

A Celebration of Student talent at Linton Village College

Linton Village College Drama recently brought the house down with a vibrant and ambitious production, Carnival of Comedy. The show was a true celebration of theatrical creativity, featuring six short plays that explored a range of comedic styles including satire, parody, farce, and melodrama.

What made this production particularly special was the scale of collaboration involved. A remarkable 60 students took part both on stage and behind the scenes, contributing their talents as actors, stage managers, technicians, designers, and crew. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and teamwork were evident throughout the rehearsal process and in the final performances.

The production was a huge success and a wonderful example of what can be achieved when students work together creatively and support one another. Carnival of Comedy showcased not only the performers' confidence and comic timing but also the commitment and professionalism of the backstage and technical teams who ensured every moment ran smoothly.

A huge congratulations to all the students involved for their hard work and for delivering such an entertaining and memorable event for our school community.

Linda Kähr, Director
Head of Drama, Linton Village College



The Netherhall School and Oakes College perform Heathers: Teen Edition



Beautiful!

A huge congratulations to all the students and staff involved in this year's spectacular production of Heathers: Teen Edition at Netherhall School and Oakes College.

From the very first notes of Beautiful, the audience knew they were in for something special, as the opening number set both the scene and an impressively high standard.

Across three incredible nights, audiences were completely wowed, with many commenting on just how professional the production felt. From start to finish, the show was slick, powerful, and endlessly entertaining, leaving audiences wanting more. The cast, band, crew, and technical teams were outstanding, delivering a performance that truly felt West End-worthy.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the staff who supported the production behind the scenes, including those involved in administration, ticket sales, and front of house. Special thanks go to Richard Morgan and Alice Richards for the impressive set design, and to Stephen Berry and Nico Green for ensuring the production sounded and looked exceptional throughout the run.

Our choreographers, Erin Rogers and Mia McShane,

brought energy and precision to every number, while Mr Parry, our stage manager and his team, ensured everything ran seamlessly. We are also incredibly grateful to the talented band members — Travis Liu, Tobias Lillicrap, Samridh Singh, Sam Horsnell, Max Kearley-Schon, Savannah Wu, Sam Pascoe, Chris Tooley, and Emma Snow, directed by Lara Thorn, whose musicianship added so much to the production.

This musical was a huge undertaking. With full weekend rehearsals, as well as evening and break-time sessions, the commitment from everyone involved was extraordinary. Few could have predicted just how professional the final production would be, but the results spoke for themselves.

None of this would have been possible without our Musical Director, Lara Thorn, and Director, Tayla Unthank. Their dedication, hard work, time, enthusiasm, and outstanding skills were very much appreciated and were at the heart of the show's success.

Well done to everyone involved — what an achievement!

**Lee Parry, Director of Drama
The Netherhall School**

Sawston Village College pupils delight the audience at their annual West Road Concert

Friday, 13 March saw Sawston Village College's Music department's 2026 annual concert take place at the West Road Concert Hall in Cambridge. From Bach to Bon Jovi and from Mozart through minimalism to Ozzy Osbourne, the concert had it all.

The Senior Concert Band started proceedings and was followed by the Friday Band, and then by various ensembles. Guitars and ukuleles were then followed by a concert first – the Key Stage 4 rock band. The Year 11 GCSE group then performed *Hooked on a Feeling* before the amazing Sawston Samba School took the audience loudly into the interval.

The String Orchestra started the second half and were followed by the Folk Group and then Percussion Ensemble. Then it was time for the singers, with the Junior Choir beginning, followed by the Madrigal Singers and the Madriguys, who then joined together to form the Chamber Choir and gave a wonderful rendition of *Baba Yetu, the Lord's Prayer in Swahili* by Christopher Tin. The wonderful Jazz Band then brought the concert to a close.

All in all, it was a fantastic evening of music. Congratulations to Sawston Village College Music department and all the brilliant pupil performers.



Sawston pupils visit the National Portrait Gallery

Year 10 Art pupils at Sawston Village College recently enjoyed a visit to the National Portrait Gallery in London, sketching works there and seeking inspiration for their personal projects.

