



WELCOME

Welcome to this, our seventh issue of Arts News.

In this issue, we celebrate some of the fantastic work in the arts taking place across the Trust, including Arts Award, outreach work, performances, new festivals and arts partners, and more. We also say farewell to the Head of Art at Bassingbourn Village College, who retires after 36 years in post.

This will be my last newsletter as I am also retiring after many happy years working for the Trust and also for Sawston Village College. It has been a privilege to work with wonderful colleagues committed to ensuring our pupils have the most enriching experiences, and I wish everyone the very best going forward. A new Arts Development Lead will start in August, and I know will be welcomed warmly at all of our schools.

Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager
Anglian Learning

Celebrating Arts Award at Sawston Village College



Monday 11 May saw some staff from across the Trust primaries and secondaries gather at Sawston Village College for a twilight screen printing session to celebrate 20 years of Arts Award. The event was hosted by the Trust Arts Development Manager, who was delighted to welcome print and textile artist, Ricki Outis, to the group. Ricki talked about setting up screen printing in schools, giving everyone good advice on this. The group then had the opportunity to design and print their own tote bags. It was an enjoyable evening, with everyone who attended giving positive feedback.

Stapleford Community Primary School launches their first Music Festival

At Stapleford Community Primary School, we launched our first music festival. The day started with a visit from Eboracum Baroque where our pupils experienced extracts from Vivaldi's four seasons, as well as trying out a hosepipe trumpet! After this fantastic start to the day, we were delighted to host our festival after school where our choir, a neighboring school choir, a local dance group, guest performers and our school band all performed. On top of this, we had a music circle, arts and crafts, family yoga, face painting and food trucks. Our pupils made us very proud, and it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the musical and performing talents of our school and others near us. We're now looking forward to doing it all again next year.

Katie Street, Deputy Headteacher
Stapleford Community Primary School



Linton Heights Junior School explores exciting new arts partnership

LHJS Creative Arts Week

Linton Heights are exploring an exciting new partnership with a specialist arts organisation in our village. 'Cambridge Art Makers' and 'Cambridge Woodwind Makers' have established themselves locally, welcoming both children and adults to attend their courses and workshops in a wide range of artistic disciplines. Working with the owners Rosemary and Susannah Bangham, LHJS have started to plan for opportunities to share their passion and talent for 'making time for making' with our pupils.

One of these opportunities has been to include Cambridge Art Makers within our Creative Arts Week in the summer term. This year it was across four days, and is a time when Linton Heights Junior School pupils immerse themselves in creativity, following a collapsed timetable that prioritises art, music and dance.

Our pupils gathered in the hall for a daily arts talk and demonstration from different Cambridge Art Makers tutors: Sunil Kalbandi (Watercolour artist), Daniel Bangham (Woodwind Maker), Jill Fordham (Stained glass artist) and Lisa Fretwell (illustrator and artist). In addition, we welcomed Head of Dance and Enrichment Lead, Helen Frost from Linton Village College, who ran a high-energy dance workshop with a group of her Year 8 students for our Year 5 classes, we enjoyed a musical theatre performance from our own talented TA Miss Rosie and we welcomed Royal Philharmonic Orchestra flautist, Jo Marsh, who performed and talked to us about life as a musician and the benefits of playing a musical instrument. In the evenings we enjoyed our Year 6 musical performance of Darwin Rocks and held our annual Summer Music Concert with solo and ensemble performances including our Junior Jazz Club and Choir.

Classroom-based activities across the week took inspiration from these talks and performances, allowing children the opportunity to try skills inspired by our visiting real-life artists. There was a real buzz around school, as staff and pupils witnessed the benefits of making time to be creative. Our pupils' curiosity, listening skills and questions when talking to our visitors impressed us all so much, and we welcomed parents and carers into school at the end of the final day for an Arts Showcase Open Gallery, which was a fantastic way to celebrate a very successful week. Before the summer holidays we will be taking a whole year group to work on more projects at Cambridge Art Makers and displaying some of our pupils' work in their Summer Show later in July. LHJS is really looking forward to continuing to plan for ways to establish this promising new partnership as we continue to work together.

Emma Mason, Music Subject Lead
Linton Heights Junior School



<https://www.cambridgemakers.org/cambridge-art-makers/>

Art Exhibition at Strawberry Fields community development in Stapleford

Stapleford Community Primary School and Sawston Village College work with professional artist

Artist Michael Condron won the commission to create a new artwork for the Strawberry Fields residential development in Stapleford and decided to work with local schools to help develop ideas.

At Sawston Village College he worked with Year 10 classes and had them make sculptures from paper and card, while at Stapleford Community Primary he had the children work on creating projections.

These workshops culminated in a wonderful exhibition at Strawberry Fields where there was much praise for the work on show.



Artist, Michael Condron, has recently been commissioned to create a permanent sculpture for Strawberry Fields. As part of this process, he has been collaborating with local communities through workshops, discussions, and research sessions.

This exhibition will showcase work created by students at Sawston Village College, Stapleford Primary School and owners at Strawberry Fields, where the theme 'Countryside Stile' has been explored - resulting in a diverse collection of imaginative interpretations, from wildlife to rockets.

Linton Village College collaborates with Michael Rosen

'Voices of Hope' with Michael Rosen

Over the past three years, Linton Village College have been fortunate to collaborate with Michael Rosen for his concert 'Voices of Hope and Compassion'. The concert is held each year at the Cambridge Corn Exchange in support of refugees.

Each year, Michael Rosen has shared with LVC a poem or text about his relatives who were tragically affected by the horrors of WWII. This year, the poem was detailing how Michael had never had the chance to meet his Aunt and Uncle, he reflects on how they would have had so many memories had they met.

Lower and Upper School Dance Companies created a highly sensitive response to this poem with the choreography. Musically, one of our Year 11 musicians composed a poignant piece of music to accompany the choreography. The solo violin beautifully filled the auditorium of the Corn Exchange. Over the violin composition, Michael Rosen then read the poem at the same time resulting in a moving arts collaboration.

Our students will remember this rare opportunity for years to come, we are so grateful for this incredible experience.

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



The Icknield Primary School visits Stapleford Granary

Years 4, 5 and 6 recently travelled to Stapleford Granary. They visited an exhibition of Shirley Baker's photography from the 1960's and 1970's entitled 'Children at Play'. The photos showed how children used to play out in the streets and how this was a different era with less traffic and technology. After that they used some light sensitive paper to make their own photographs using a very early technique. Before they left, they were allowed to draw in chalk on the slate floor of the corridor – they loved this! Zachariah, Lewis (Y4) and Lucie (Y5) said "We had a fun and extraordinary afternoon. We enjoyed the printing but best of all was the drawing on the floor!"

Diane Mitchell, Headteacher
The Icknield Primary School



Arts Award Success at Sawston Village College

220 Year 7 pupils at Sawston Village College recently passed their Bronze Arts Award after having worked on the award through their first year at secondary school.

Arts Award is nationally recognised qualification for young people accredited through Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England. It is offered at five levels: Discover, Explore, Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The Bronze Arts Award is a Level 1 qualification where young people complete four different parts which include developing their arts skills, attending an arts event, researching an arts inspiration and passing on an arts skill to others.

Pupils at Sawston completed the different sections of the award in a mixture of homework and classwork tasks. In their art lessons, for example, they learned about games design and isometric drawing, while in music lessons they wrote up their reviews of the Brass Funkeys concert they attended, organised by the Music department.

The Netherhall School and Oakes College Arts Festival 2026 shines bright despite the rain

A spectacular evening of creativity, talent and community spirit took centre stage at Arts Festival 2026, as students delivered an unforgettable showcase of artistic excellence.

Despite challenging weather conditions, Arts Festival 2026 proved that nothing could dampen the enthusiasm, energy and remarkable talent on display throughout the evening.

The festival transformed the school into a vibrant celebration of the arts, with audiences treated to an impressive array of performances, exhibitions and displays. Musicians captivated listeners with their performances, actors brought stories to life on stage, dancers wowed the crowd with their skill and creativity, while artists and photographers showcased stunning work that reflected both imagination and dedication.

Visitors also enjoyed contributions from members of the EC Club, talented student bakers and the many students who helped serve refreshments, ensuring guests received a warm welcome throughout the event.

The evening was the result of months of hard work, commitment and passion from students and staff alike. Behind every performance and exhibition stood a team of dedicated staff members whose efforts helped bring the festival to life. Their support, organisation and encouragement played a vital role in creating such a successful occasion.

A fantastic turnout of students, families and friends added to the excitement, filling the venue with encouragement, applause and pride. Their support helped create a truly uplifting atmosphere as the school community came together to celebrate the achievements of its young artists and performers. From inspiring performances to breathtaking artwork, Arts Festival 2026 was a shining example of the creativity and talent that thrives within the school. The event not only celebrated artistic achievement but also highlighted the strong sense of community that makes occasions like this so special.

As the evening drew to a close, there was a shared sense of pride in what had been accomplished. Arts Festival 2026 will undoubtedly be remembered as a remarkable celebration of talent, determination and community spirit—and one of the highlights of the school year.

**Emma Snow, Director of The Arts
The Netherhall School**

Alice in Wonderland

A magical performance of scenes from Alice in Wonderland delighted everyone in attendance. The students' hard work and enthusiasm truly shone on stage, and we look forward to seeing what these talented young performers achieve next.

**Mika Woods, Teacher of Geography
The Netherhall School**



Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport shares a passion for performance



(Photo taken at Newport Primary School showing pupils with Raeesa Aniff, her cast and Mrs Warwick)

Bringing the Arts to our wider communities

At Joyce Frankland Academy, we believe that the arts have the power to inspire, educate, and bring people together. Through drama, music, dance and creative expression, young people develop confidence, communication skills, creativity, and a lifelong appreciation for culture and storytelling. We are passionate about ensuring that all children have the opportunity to experience the arts, regardless of their background or previous exposure. The performing arts offer more than entertainment; they encourage imagination, collaboration, self-expression, and personal growth, helping young people thrive both inside and outside the classroom. As part of our commitment to arts education, we have taken theatre beyond the school gates and into the heart of our local communities.

Our students and staff have delivered fifteen performances in primary schools across the region, bringing the excitement of live theatre directly to younger audiences. For many children, these performances provide their first experience of live theatre, creating memorable moments that sparked curiosity, creativity, and confidence.

These outreach performances reflect our belief that the arts should be accessible, inclusive, and inspiring for everyone. While our students develop valuable performance and leadership skills, they also help introduce younger children to the joy of storytelling and artistic expression.

At Joyce Frankland Academy, we are proud to champion the arts and share their benefits with the wider community. At the start of the school year, staff and students engaged in Drama and Performance (voice and body) workshops in 10 of our feeder Primary schools as part of our Arts programme. We delivered tailored workshops to KS1 and KS2 students to enhance their knowledge of the basic skills of performance work. Later this term we will open our doors again to our feeder primaries with an invitation to watch this year's school production of Disney's Frozen in a special series of matinees primarily for their enjoyment. By creating opportunities for young people to engage with theatre and creativity, we hope to inspire the next generation of artists, performers, and creative thinkers while enriching the lives of those around us.

The arts play a vital role in education and community life, and we remain committed to ensuring that these opportunities continue to be available, celebrated, and enjoyed by all.

Raeesa Aniff, Head of Performing Arts (Drama)
Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport

We send our best wishes to the Head of Art at Bassingbourn Village College as she retires

Head of Art Nicky Price has been in post at Bassingbourn Village College for 36 years. She has enjoyed working with the Heads of Art at other Trust schools and on Trust-wide initiatives, such as the Platform Art Exhibitions, but it is Bassingbourn Village College which means most to her. As she retires, we invited her to reflect on her career and the changes she has seen.

I joined the school at Easter 1990, when the school was half the age it is now and when there were around half as many students on roll, as there are now.

The warden at the time was Val Harris, I have worked under a further five headteachers in my time here. I came to a school which very much demonstrated Henry Morris' philosophy of "from the cradle to the grave". Numerous community education and social events took place during the school day, evenings and weekends. It was not unusual, and a little frustrating, to have to queue in the ladies' toilets at break with toddlers, who were attending the parent and toddler group in the Morris Room. In the Art Department, there were adult pottery classes, both during the day and during the evening. There were evening life drawing classes, and the sewing and upholstery classes were very popular.

Having come from west London schools, the 22 acres of playing fields and tree-lined avenues, seemed very special. It was said of the trees, when the school was built, that they "in due course, will add dignity and beauty to the environment of the College". I have seen them flourish to achieve this goal and provide colour and shade to the site. Rural studies had been taught up until the time I started, and there were still a few animals on the field. We had an amazing museum, in a very quirky building, housing rural artefacts and donated local items, which made great sources to draw from. In fact, Val Harris, also an Art teacher, turned this into a third Art room and a base for her lessons. In the grounds, as well as our statues, we had large items of agricultural machinery, a greenhouse and a potting shed, which all gave good reasons to get outside with the students to draw. Time has moved on though and these have all made way for a carpark, though the designers did at least



leave us our beautiful walnut tree.

I have always felt that being an Art teacher is an immense privilege. I don't regret my choice of career. I have taught many amazing individuals over the years and worked with some great staff. I love to hear about ex-students who have continued their artwork beyond Bassingbourn, either for work or pleasure.

At Bassingbourn, I have been fortunate to be part of numerous school productions, both on and off the stage. I have felt the camaraderie and been so moved and proud by what I have seen our students achieve. I have also been lucky enough to be part of a number of school trips, with the battlefields and ski trips probably being the most memorable, but the pond dipping at Fowlmere and visits to various art galleries and exhibitions being special too.

It has been decades since I first heard, "you taught my mum/dad." The other day I heard a student whisper to a friend that I had taught somebody's nan! I think, after 42 years, this could be a sign that it is time to hand in my lanyard. I don't intend to give up the Art though, I am hoping that I will now find time to pursue my own creative interests.

Thank you to all students and staff I have worked with over the years. I will look back on you all with appreciation and great fondness and wish you all the best. I hope to keep close contact with the college in the future and will be back to see the exhibitions and shows but from a spectator's point of view.

**Nicky Price, Head of Art
Bassingbourn Village College**