

Footprints

Step-by-step together

Your newsletter from the Diocesan Board of Education

February 2018



Paul Dunning
Diocesan Director of Education

Arts & Culture

As a group of Church of England schools and academies we are already committed to working for an educational experience that is more than achieving well in tests and exams.

Of course, we must enable the highest possible academic results but we also remember the words of Jesus in John chapter 10, verse 10, where he speaks of 'life in all its fullness'. Current education legislation also recognises this with the 1988 Education Reform Act placing importance on 'educating the whole person'.

The Church of England Vision for Education has as one of its four basic elements the importance of 'Educating

for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills'. Good schools, it says 'nurture academic habits and skills, emotional intelligence and creativity across the whole range of school subjects, including areas such as music, drama and the arts'. There are hundreds of examples across the Diocese of Norwich whereby our schools and academies are living this out and making an impact for children. This edition of Footprints features just four such instances.

We also have an input relating to the national Artsmark Award and I would encourage you to think about how this might be appropriate for your circumstances and perhaps find out more.

I am sure we can all remember significant and important times in our lives when we engaged with the arts either as performer / creator or as part of an audience and were moved and even changed (I remember the tears when seeing Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers' a few years ago at the Theatre Royal). We may have been very young or much more mature but such moments are an important part of making us who we are. The joy of creating is something innate. I guess we shouldn't be surprised when we consider what a creative God we have!

LISTEN

CELEBRATE

IMAGINE

EMPOWER

...MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE

**The Saints Federation:
All Saints CofE VA Primary
St Andrews CofE VA Primary,
North Lopham and
Hopton CofE VA Primary**

Justin Doherty
Art Coordinator

Maxine McGarr
Executive Headteacher

As part of striving for Artsmark, we as a wider school community, have taken steps to ensure that all children now have a greater voice when it comes to their learning. This has been a great success as children are now more eager to learn certain subjects and there is a greater sense of pride in their work.

Through galleries showcasing the children's work, the children have a greater link both to their local community and to the wider community in general. The sense of pride from all children having their work displayed is a joy to see and the sense of ownership they attained from helping to organise events and exhibitions furthered this. This has also had a positive effect on parents and carers who now get to be involved more with their child's



art and culture work. Parents quoted "We never really had an opportunity to see our child's work on display to everyone before. It was lovely, like their own exhibition." and "I am so glad that our little girl is proud of her work now, she is so excited about art this term. Whatever you are doing, it has made a huge difference."

We strived to show children their potential by bringing in professionals from all areas, which opened them up to the broad range of arts and culture. This along with the new engagement the children showed, not only with art but across the curriculum has helped to inspire and motivate the children. The

range of arts and culture the children have been involved with include child-led art galleries, visits from local professionals and interviews with global professionals such as film concept artists and comic-book artists, film and theatre clubs, child-led productions and whole school large-scale outdoor art projects.

We have also had artists and musicians work with us to design our long-term plans. We have had artists such as concept artists create long term projects which engage and inspire the children in all areas and help many of them see their potential as artists or musicians and thereby blossom."

**Rudham and
Weasenhams Federation:
Rudham & Weasenhams CofE
Primary Academies (DNEAT)**

Belinda Allen
Executive Headteacher

By gaining the Artsmark we have found that the arts are a way of helping to unlock the potential of children and to enable them to develop character, talent, knowledge and understanding of this aspect of the curriculum.

We realise that success can look very different and all children can achieve; for us it is about releasing and realising potential, we are the facilitators for our pupils. Some of our children find the ability to achieve in the core subjects a huge challenge; however they are successful learners in the arts. By revisiting our curriculum each year we focus on the opportunities we can offer our children and also on how we can enable them to achieve. Through the curriculum we offer we focus on enabling personal progression and extending opportunities for our children. We take feedback from



the children to find out their thoughts and ideas, we allow them to lead their learning, so that they gain the most from each aspects of the curriculum.

Throughout the time that a pupil is with us, we aim to give them as many 'different' experiences as possible, whether this be through art on the common, local visits, artist in residence or visits to theatres. At Rudham and Weasenhams we try as much as possible to link our topics into art, giving a more coherent and meaningful approach to learning for our children, enabling everyone to succeed. Links with our community are also important to us, we take part in the local Horticultural Society

show, demonstrating different aspects of our 'art'. Our children are also given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; this is funded by Pupil Premium for those who are entitled. The children get to perform in our Celebration Assemblies each term. We are also very fortunate to live near to Houghton Hall and were able to visit their recent exhibition, Earth Sky. With all of the experiences we provide, we give the children a purpose to work for and they take immense pride in their real responsibility. We have lots of ideas of things we would like to do in the future including pupils leading our own Collective Worship later this term.



Cringleford CofE VA Primary

Camilla Falconbridge, director of MissAdventures Theatre Company, has been working in partnership with Cringleford CofE VA Primary School for the past year, bringing her own whimsical brand of creativity to Year 2 and beyond!

During weekly sessions Camilla has been working with Year 2 towards gaining their Discover Arts Award. This special award, regulated by Trinity College, London and overseen by Arts Council, England, is designed to encourage and develop a life-long relationship with the creative arts in all their many forms. It involves learning about different arts practitioners, art forms and artists as well



as taking part in practical workshops and creating original art-work.

The children all receive a sketchpad, which, by the end of the term, is filled to the brim with photos, pictures, characters, ideas and original creations. They also receive their special Arts Award Discover certificate.

Artists and topics studied have included Banksy, Andy Warhol's Pop Art, Edvard Munch, Michael Craig-Martin, Shakespeare, Greek Theatre and Myths, Magritte, Kandinsky and Antony Gormley, to name just a few.

By the end of the spring term 2018, over 120 children at Cringleford Primary will have achieved their Discover Arts Award – that's 120 budding artists ready to paint the town!

Camilla, together with Miss Nash (one of the Year 2 teachers), also ran summer holiday drama workshops which were a great success! The children created amazing plays, stories and characters... with the help of wacky costumes and props. Hilarious slapstick silent movies were definitely a favourite!

Camilla says, "I am delighted to be working so creatively with Cringleford Primary School. Art and Drama allow children to express themselves creatively, which helps to develop their imagination, creative and critical thinking and social skills as well as confidence and self-esteem. They also contribute to overall wellbeing – something so important for young people. I look forward to continuing to work with the school in the future."

Preston CofE VC Primary (In partnership with Saxlingham CofE VC Primary)

**Lesley Payne
Executive Headteacher**

When life is so busy at school, it's sometimes easier to turn down opportunities for extra work rather than embrace them – but we are so glad that we agreed to be part of a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for a community project in Tasburgh to explore and celebrate the history of land in the village.

Involvement in the 'Imagined Land' project brought rich learning experiences for our children including archaeological digs in our grounds; geodrone demonstrations; expert tuition in lantern-making and construction of huge carnival-style structures; work with musicians to compose music and lyrics to celebrate the history of the village and the re-telling of histories through drama. Children learned interview techniques and worked with dictaphones to record the personal histories of local residents and classrooms buzzed with animated children engaged in art, poetry and story based on their historical research.

Learning was amazing – children who lacked focus in the classroom willingly spent hours sifting earth whilst talking to the archaeologist about history from the dinosaurs onwards; children who were reluctant to write in other lessons, used vocabulary and ideas in their poetry that blew us away!

Perhaps best of all, the project drew members of the local community into our school. We hosted exhibition evenings that mapped the progress of the project, featuring work and research from other

village groups – and the children won great commendation for their own contributions. With the community, we worked together towards a great celebratory event on a Saturday evening in September. On the night, everybody marched together with lanterns lit to the 'Imagined Land' - and through music, song, drama and art, celebrated all the possible scenes that land may have been the site of in years past.

Everybody was exhausted – but we're so glad we seized the opportunity!





Artsmark
AWARDED BY ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



What is Artsmark?

The Artsmark award provides recognition and support to schools and academies who are delivering an excellent arts and cultural education. Designed by schools, for schools, it aligns with School Improvement Plans, giving the curriculum breadth and balance. Since re-launching in 2015, Artsmark has reached one million pupils across England.

Festival Bridge is one of ten national Bridge organisations funded by Arts Council England and the Department for Education to connect children and young people with great arts and culture in their region. We work across Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Peterborough and Suffolk.

We are currently supporting 18% of the schools in our region on their Artsmark

journey. As this continues to grow we can increasingly see the incredible benefits to whole school improvement as well as pupils in a wide variety of education settings;

"Our Artsmark journey has helped demonstrate the impact that creative learning can have across the curriculum."
Ed Clark, Thomas Gainsborough School

Artsmark schools see an increase in pupils' confidence, critical and creative thinking, communication and literacy skills. The Artsmark journey also introduces the joys of creating, performing and experiencing art to young people who may not otherwise be exposed to it;

"We used the Artsmark process to develop, nurture, celebrate and embed the creative arts in all aspects of the curriculum throughout our school. This opportunity has led us to inspire and engage students."
Ellie Henry, Edward Worledge - Ormiston Academy Primary

Schools gain access to practical teaching resources as well as networks of the country's leading cultural organisations, helping them develop and strengthen their arts provision. The Artsmark award also provides strong evidence for how schools are meeting their spiritual, moral, social and cultural Ofsted requirements;

"Our pupils are making accelerated progress and this, along with a holistic approach to our rich cultural and arts ethos has been recognised by Ofsted and our School Improvement Partners."
Sue Parillon, New Regent's College Pupil Referral Unit

You can find out more about how we support Artsmark, the benefit to schools and educators, as well as a variety of case studies from schools in our region at our website; nnfestival.org.uk/festival-bridge or talk to Festival Bridge at bridge@nnfestival.org.uk or call 01603 878 285.

Governor & Clerk update



Louise Reeves
Education Support Officer

The Arts

Ofsted have made it clear that they have an expectation that all schools should

have a broad and balanced curriculum. This is as a result of evidence showing that some schools are concentrating on reading, writing and maths as they have a results driven culture. The arts enable the school to enhance the curriculum. How do you know your school is meeting the expectation of a broad and balanced curriculum?

Children do not have to be artistic to enjoy these elements or to be good at them. Many children will enjoy these regardless of ability.

Maybe you can ask yourself as a governor:

- Does your school have music, art, drama and other elements as part of the curriculum timetable?
- What is the impact on the children?
- Is it taught as part of other subjects or alone?
- How does access to the arts help your vulnerable groups?
- Does the school offer after school activities relating to the arts and who runs and accesses these?

Louise can be contacted by email:
louise.reeves@dioceseofnorwich.org
or call 01603 882344

SIAMS Congratulations

Congratulations to the following schools that have had their SIAMS inspections this Autumn/Spring term.

Good

Morley CofE VA Primary School
Old Catton CofE VC Junior School
St Faiths CofE VC Primary School

DNEAT

Converting to DNEAT

Brisley VA Primary, Sandringham and West Newton VA Primary, Hopton VA Primary, Gayton VC Primary and Little Snoring Community Primary.