

WELCOME

Welcome to this, our second issue of Arts News, the termly update from Anglian Learning highlighting some of the work in the arts taking place across our schools.

In this issue we feature two projects which saw our schools collaborate: in July we enjoyed our first-ever Dance Festival which brought both primary and secondary schools together for a day of fantastic performance, while in November the art departments of our secondary schools and sixth

forms joined forces to put on a wonderful exhibition of pupil artwork in central Cambridge. This issue also covers projects, trips and new developments taking place in our schools.

While this newsletter cannot hope to cover all of the brilliant work taking place across Anglian Learning schools, we do hope it will give you a taste of what we are up to and our commitment to the arts. Look out for more news in future issues.

Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager, Anglian Learning

Year 5 pupils celebrate 50th Anniversary with stunning mosaic at Linton Heights Junior School

Last half term, Year 5 pupils at Linton Heights Junior School had the exciting opportunity to collaborate with local artist, Jim Anderson, on a special project to mark the school's 50th anniversary. The project culminated in a breathtaking mosaic, designed by Jim Anderson, that draws inspiration from the school's local water tower.

Jim provided artistic direction throughout the process, guiding the pupils as they worked in small groups to piece together this intricate artwork. Each group focused on different sections of the design, contributing their unique touches to the overall piece. With Jim's expert guidance, the pupils learned the traditional technique of mosaic-making, carefully selecting and arranging tiles to create a stunning visual tribute to the history and spirit of Linton Heights Junior School.

The mosaic now takes pride of place at the front of the school, visible to parents, carers, visitors, and members of the local community. It serves as a lasting reminder of the school's 50-year journey, combining the students' collective creativity and the heritage of our school.

The experience not only provided an opportunity for the pupils to learn a new artistic skill, but it also fostered teamwork and a shared sense of accomplishment.

Jim praised the pupils for their enthusiasm, dedication, and attention to detail, noting how each group's contribution came together to form a harmonious and vibrant design.

We are thrilled to have this beautiful mosaic as part of Linton Heights' legacy, and we look forward to seeing it continue to inspire future generations of pupils and visitors alike.

Hannah Sanham, Arts Lead, Linton Heights Junior School



You can find out more about Jim Anderson's art at www.jimpanzee-art.co.uk.

Experiencing artworks first hand at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport

On 17 October the art department at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport visited The Courtauld Gallery in London to enjoy looking at works of art first-hand with the Year 11 classes. The purpose was primarily to observe examples of work by Paul Cezanne in the context of other 19th Century works, to reinforce the pupil's knowledge of his style and techniques and to highlight how these differed from the style of others of the same period.

Laura Sharpe, Head of Art, said, "It was wonderful to see pupils developing a deeper understanding of Cezanne and how he changed the course of art production. For the pupils to see works of art first-hand is vital in their development as artists." She went on to recall how one pupil asked upon entry to the Gallery, "Did Cezanne really produce this actual painting? He stood in front of this canvas!"

This comment highlights the value of such visits, exposing pupils to the opportunity to visit centres of cultural and historical importance, some for the first time in their lives.

During the visit, pupils were asked to build upon their critical studies, demonstrating a better understanding of the historical factors of early 19th Century art, and solidifying their knowledge of Cezanne's unique style and how this relates to their current explorations within the genre of Cubism, and ultimately why Cezanne is now considered to be the forefather of Modern Art. Pupils also had the opportunity to create a series of direct observational drawings and colour studies from the paintings selected.



Subsequent to the trip, pupils have now spent time refining and extending their sketches and have begun to present their work alongside notes about the differences between Cezanne's work and that of his contemporaries.

Laura Williams, year 11 pupil, said, "Going to see the artwork of famous and inspirational artists we had learnt about in class was an incredible experience. To simply be in the same room as paintings by Monet and Paul Cezanne was invaluable. It was great fun creating observational sketches of the paintings alongside friends and surrounded by other people who also find art fun and interesting."

**Laura Sharpe, Head of Art,
Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport**



Music

at Bottisham Village College

Bottisham Music Centre

One of the objectives of Bottisham's Artsmark application is to increase the opportunities for music making by young people in our community and, during half term, we were very excited to launch the Bottisham Music Centre (BMC).

Aimed at students in years 3-6, the Bottisham Music Centre's first Holiday Workshop welcomed a fantastic group of young musicians for two days of activities, including orchestra, rock school, choir, and tuned percussion. The workshop was led by Emma Andrews and a team of experienced instrumental tutors, and was rounded off with a concert for friends and family where the pupils showcased their achievements, each performing in multiple ensembles.

Feedback from pupils and parents was fantastic, with one pupil even complaining, "I love it so much I don't want to have my break!". The BMC team will be delivering another workshop during February half term, and our goal for the new year is to provide a Saturday music school where we can offer regular ensembles alongside increased accessibility to instrumental lessons. More details of the Bottisham Music Centre events and activities can be found on our Facebook page.

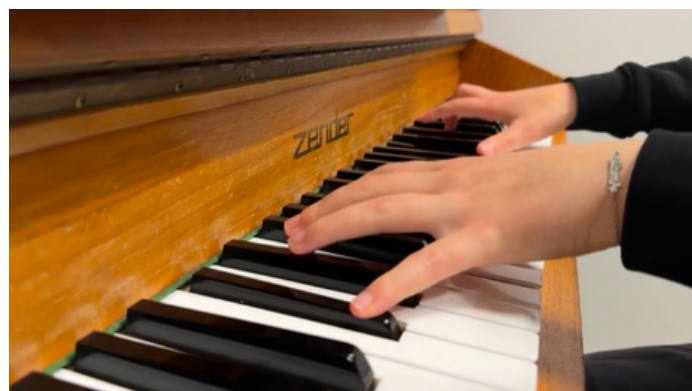


Piano Equals

Bottisham Village College (BVC) was approached last year by Simon Pollard from Millers Music in Cambridge, who had a fantastic plan to get second hand instruments into schools and encourage young people to learn more instruments. After about 6 months of extremely hard work (almost exclusively by Simon), Millers arrived with three donated and refurbished pianos for the BVC practice rooms, which went into service immediately and have been used every day since they arrived for curriculum lessons, instrumental tuition, and individual practice.

Millers have continued developing their scheme and have recently launched it as Piano Equals. Simon and his team have done some amazing work researching and calculating the best recycling procedures for end of life instruments, and the carbon savings of refurbished instruments vs new, internationally shipped ones. They have recently taken over some empty units in the Grafton Centre to store the instruments and are hoping to invite schools to choose new instruments. If you are interested in instruments for your school, you can contact the Millers team through the piano equals website.

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



Find out more about Millers Piano Equals scheme here:
<https://millersmusic.co.uk/pages/piano-equals>

Embarking on Artsmark at The Icknield Primary School

Attending the Cultural Leadership Event and the beginning of our Artsmark journey

Diane Mitchell and Alison Hodson, from The Icknield Primary School, recently joined other members of Anglian Learning for a Cultural Leadership event held at Bottisham Village College. Attending this event marked the first step for us in embarking on our Artsmark journey.

Through Artsmark, our aim is for our pupils to understand key concepts and to develop knowledge, skills and vocabulary that can be taught directly. We want art at The Icknield to go further: to be about creative thinking and persistence, experimenting and discovery – to be experiential.

The Cultural Leadership Workshops

The workshops brought together educators, artists, and cultural leaders from across Anglian Learning, offering valuable insights into the importance of cultural leadership within schools.

Through the workshops, we explored how the arts can be embedded into all areas of school life. The photography workshop and introduction to Canva taught us how to create posters at the touch of a button.



Left: One of the posters created by one of the groups in the photography and Canva workshop.

Although nervous about the drama workshop at first, we soon took on the personas of the characters in the different scenarios!

We enjoyed presentations by two schools already on their Artsmark journeys. Then we discussed strategies for building an arts-rich curriculum that engages pupils, enhances their creativity, and fosters personal and social development.

The event also provided us with a deeper understanding of what it means to lead cultural change within our school community.

We discussed cultural leadership being not just about one person or one department, but about creating a shared vision across the whole school. By working together, we can create an environment where the arts flourish, and every child can thrive creatively.



Next Step on our Artsmark Journey

With the Cultural Leadership event behind us, we are now focused on taking the next step in our Artsmark journey. Our first task is to conduct a self-assessment of our current arts provision. We will look at where we are excelling and identify areas where we can grow. Engaging the whole school community - pupils, teachers, and parents - in this process will be key to ensuring that our arts strategy is inclusive and reflective of our school's needs. We are excited to strengthen our partnerships with local cultural organisations, invite artists into our school, and offer more opportunities for pupils to take part in creative activities. Our goal is to ensure that the arts are an integral part of our school's identity.

Attending the Cultural Leadership event was a pivotal moment in our school's journey towards achieving Artsmark accreditation. It has inspired us to think about the broader role that arts and culture can play in shaping our school's identity and how we can provide our pupils with the best possible opportunities for creativity and leadership.

Alison Hodson, HLTA and Art Lead, and Diane Mitchell, Headteacher, The Icknield Primary School



**We're working
towards Artsmark**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Platform 24

Anglian Learning Art Exhibition held at Michaelhouse Café

In November of this year, the Art Departments of all Anglian Learning secondary schools and sixth forms were proud to exhibit work by our pupils in a public display in central Cambridge. Named **Platform 24**, this was the fourth time we have put on this show, with the first taking place in 2019.

The exhibition was held in the Michaelhouse Café, in the Michaelhouse Centre, Trinity Street. This is a fantastic venue for such an event as this is a popular space with both locals and tourists, as well as being a beautiful building in which to exhibit our work.

Work was on display from 11th-23rd November, with a Private View on the evening of 11th, attended by the artists, their families, and staff, governors and friends of Anglian Learning. The event was opened by Anglian Learning CEO Mr Jon Culpin, and I felt privileged to welcome people to the Private View on behalf of the Heads of Art.

Music students from Bottisham Village College played a variety of instruments throughout the evening, including harp and violin. The evening was well attended, with a wonderful atmosphere. Pupils were excited to see and show their work, and parents and staff were suitably proud of the quality of their displays. Year 7 through to sixth form were represented, with a diverse range of materials being used, including textiles, photography and mixed media.

Feedback from Michaelhouse staff was very positive. They reported that the public showed a lot of interest and were impressed by the quality of the work. Even as the exhibition was being hung, people were asking about the work and commenting on the high standard.



Musicians from Bottisham Village College at the event



Artwork by pupils from Linton Village College



Some of the exhibiting artists with Jonathan Culpin, CEO, (third left) and Duncan Cooper, Director of Secondary Education, (far right) for Anglian Learning

This exhibition provides us with the opportunity to show the work of our pupils to a wider audience than our own schools and local communities, and for people outside our establishments to see just how talented our young people are. As well as being an opportunity for our pupils, the staging of this exhibition is also a great CPD experience for Art staff. We come together to mount the exhibition in advance, where we discuss projects, grades and processes, building relationships. Through this shared experience, we are now a close team, who trust and support each other.

We could not have put on this show without the help of many people, including the Sawston Village College site team, Anglian Learning central administration staff, staff at Michaelhouse Café, Jez Brewer and the music pupils of Bottisham Village College, all art teams, including our wonderful technicians, senior leaders of Anglian Learning, and our Arts Development Manager, Lesley Morgan. Thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way and to those of you who went along to see the exhibition.

Please look out for us again next year, when we hope to stage Platform 25.

Nicky Price, Head of Art, Bassingbourn Village College, on behalf of Anglian Learning Heads of Art

Stage 24

Anglian Learning Dance Festival held at Bottisham Village College

Stage 24, which was held at Bottisham Village College on 11 July 2024, was a new venture for Anglian Learning, marking the coming together of both primary and secondary schools to showcase a wonderful array of dance in our first Trust-wide Dance Festival.

With the greatest sporting competition in the world about to start in Paris, schools were able to take the Olympics and their values of excellence, respect and friendship as the inspiration for their performances. The result was an inspiring range of dance styles performed to different music genres in group, duo and solo performances, all of which highlighted the importance of dance, the arts, and physical activity, and, at the same time, showcased the rich creativity in evidence across our Trust community.

The event aimed to provide the real-life experience that goes with performing on stage, and we hoped would also create lifelong memories for those taking part. We wanted our dancers to feel an authentic affiliation to their school's dance team, and to gain confidence and a personal sense of achievement from their contribution.

Our first Dance Festival proved to be an outstanding success, and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed to putting on such an ambitious event. We are now busily preparing for Stage 25, when we will be excited to raise the curtain again and celebrate dance in true Anglian Learning style!

Ryan Parker, Primary PE Trust System Leader

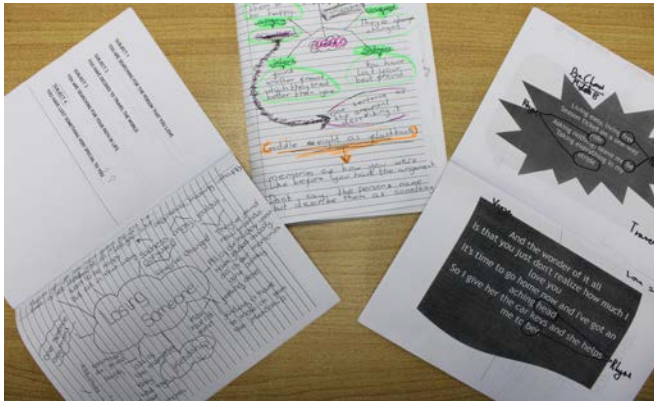


Years 7 & 8 Music

at Bassingbourn Village College

The great thing about coming from the professional music industry into a classroom setting is being able to draw on many hundreds of recording sessions and songwriting sessions to be able to give pupils a “real world” view of how music is made and how it can be used to support or even alter the emotion of a setting. I find this really useful when teaching the current parts of the course.

Year 7s start their KS3 journey looking at pop music, both in a technical and cultural setting. So far, they have learnt about important elements of music in pop, such as the use of texture and dynamics to create differing sections of music with a basic pop song structure, and they have been learning to programme triad chords. Quite often I will write songs with them on the spot and we look at how harmony can quickly twist and turn a song into something different.



Personally, one of the most fulfilling aspects of this course is watching the pupils realise what they are creating when they start to build harmony into their work, and the single notes start to become “3D” as we add tones into them. The inspiration starts to capture their imagination, which really comes alive when we start writing lyrics, as we are now doing. A great challenge that they are working on currently is setting lyrics from an existing song to their own composition. This creates a really lively and dynamic debate about the use of language and diction within lyrics and challenges the pupils to consider melody and rhythm alongside how they can still deliver the message whilst having to use different language.



Year 8s are currently working with production music, specifically looking at underscore and leitmotifs. I always find it interesting how pupils realise that the music accompanying a film is something that they don't really notice until they start to study it. It never ceases to amaze me how it only takes two seconds of the Star Wars theme for the entire class to put their hand up excitedly to say they know what film it is.

Those pupils have been working hard to analyse and breakdown some underscore and then have a go at composing their own score for a scene from Pirates of the Caribbean. As always, we try to build on prior knowledge and recall topics that have come up before, so in this module of the course we are trying to recall some harmonic knowledge and push it further by considering the tonality of different scales and using them appropriately to match an emotion.

The groups have done some wonderful work with the scene, with some choosing to try and change the overall emotion and feeling of the scene through the use of different tonality and instrumentation – really impressive work!



We have now moved on to looking at leitmotifs, which is a fascinating topic, and thanks to some wonderful masterclasses online with Hans Zimmer, the pupils are now working on recreating some themes and then composing their own for a character. It's always a great experience as the pupils delve into how different characters present and look at how their personality within the role will inform the way the leitmotif functions to support them.

It's been a really fun and rewarding year for us all so far!

**Neil Cowlan, Music Teacher,
Bassingbourn Village College**

Spaces and Places

at Howard Community Academy

At Howard Community Academy we are continuing our arts journey. Having received our Gold Artsmark award in August 2023, we have been keen to keep the momentum going, using our arts provision as a tool through which to develop literacy and language in the curriculum.

Last academic year, Headteacher, Alison Weir, was invited to join the Festival Connect & Create Educators Network steering group, which brought together teachers and leaders from across the East of England and connected further with the Norfolk & Norwich Festival Connect & Create programme. Aware of the huge benefit of engagement with the arts, the school applied to take part in an arts residency programme through the Connect and Create programme and, in July, we were thrilled to hear that we had been successful and were to be linked with Glass House Dance.

Laura and Sarah from Glass House Dance have been running our Spaces and Places project with our year 4 cohort since October. This has involved teacher professional development, thinking about how we use dance to enhance our curriculum and planning opportunities to incorporate movement and body confidence into our curriculum. Having invested in the Dance East digital primaries programme last year, this was a natural progression from observing practice as non-specialist teachers and developing confidence in teaching dance. As primary teachers, very few of our staff would say that they felt confident in teaching dance, having experienced relatively limited training in their specialism. However, the professional development session was an opportunity to share their concerns and to think through some practical ways in which they could develop lessons linked to their wider curriculum; some even developed sequences of learning!

You can find out more about the Spaces and Places project here:

<https://nnfestival.org.uk/schools-and-communities/creative-schools/spaces-and-places/>

Find out more about Glass House Dance here:

<https://www.glasshousedance.co.uk/>



The project set out to explore concepts of place, belonging and identity over five days. Having shared Howard Community Academy's journey with the arts, Glass House have worked with year 4s to explore emotions through movement. The obvious enjoyment and growing confidence of the pupils has been evident as they have danced in different places around our site - on our field, in our Key Stage 1 open area and in the hall! Our year 4 cohort is boy-heavy and has a high number of pupils in receipt of pupil premium and/or with special educational needs, so through an inclusive lens we chose the cohort deliberately to specifically enhance their curriculum. Giving the pupils the opportunity for natural movement as a release in small groups throughout the day has enabled them to be more confident in movement with their bodies, and we are starting to see this confidence translate more and more into the classroom.

Although the project is not yet complete, Norwich and Norfolk Festival have been filming with us as they will be presenting a culmination of the learning and the project at the Festival in May. So far, it has been an extremely positive, creative and uplifting project with a great arts partnership with Glass House Dance, and I would thoroughly recommend applying for an arts residency project to any other schools that are considering it. We look forward to being part of an exciting line-up of projects!

**Alison Weir, Headteacher,
Howard Community Academy**

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