

latest news:
October-December 2005



EDUCATION through the ARTS^{IN}SCIENCE and INDUSTRY(EASI) Programme Elements Project

This pilot project aims to promote the transfer of pupils' skills across the science, technology, history and geography areas of the curriculum related to one or more of the industries at Wilton. The pupils will work with artists to explore the history of the industries chosen, the reasons for their location in the area, the number of people employed and the kinds of jobs they did. This cross-curricular project will incorporate kinetic sculpture, creative writing, visual art and visits to the industrial sites. It will culminate in the creation of a sculpture and a book.

The schools involved are Haughton Community School, Beaumont Hill Special School and Springfield Primary, who are collectively opening in November as the new Education Village in Darlington. One of our key aims is to help these disparate schools forge a coherent identity. The project also aims to meet the following objectives in relation to Vocational and Work Related Learning:

- Allow students to recognise, develop and apply their skills for enterprise and employability
- Allow students to use their experience of work to extend their understanding of work
- Help students to learn about the way business enterprises operate
- Allow students to have contact with personnel from different employment sectors

- Allow students to have experience of working practices and environments
- Enable students to engage with ideas, challenges and applications from the business world

Workshops also aim for the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of work related language and vocabulary
- Analyse how examples of learning within the curriculum can be applied to work contexts
- Collect relevant evidence and use it for making decisions
- Show leadership, management, drive and self reliance when working on tasks in teams
- Appreciate the relevance of using key skills like communication, working with others, application of number and problem solving in the workplace.
- Interact with adults other than their teachers
- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Be able to share their expertise and interest in the subject with other pupils



The art:works Programme Arts & Cultural Activities

Tailor made activities to address each schools particular needs.



dance:works



drama:works



word:works



cloth:works

Over the past three years The Education Programme at **tees valley arts** has been working with schools throughout the Tees Valley to deliver a range of exciting and challenging arts and cultural activities ~ the art:works programme.

tees valley arts runs courses in the performing arts covering dance, drama, performance poetry, music and combined arts. A standard course consists of ten workshops (one to three hours each), over a full term. **tees valley arts** also delivers a wide range of weekly visual and literary arts courses (sessions typically one to three hours long). Art:works projects can be designed to support schools with curricular provision, artsmark awards, extended schools, cross curricular activities and so on.



monster:works



music:works



animation:works



verse:works



carnival:works

evolve

promoting creative learning in science and the arts

The education programme's evolve project was recently awarded over £200,000 by the Tees Valley Partnerships, Raising Aspirations fund.

The evolve project will run from September 05 – March 07 and will bring together a comprehensive package of exciting and inspiring activities for young people, teachers, PGCE students, artists and arts graduates in the Tees Valley.

- Promoting creativity in teaching and learning in Tees Valley schools
- Raising the educational aspirations of young people
- Delivering exciting and innovative ways of learning in science
- Using the arts to enhance the skills of pupils, teachers and artists
- Using the arts to improve pupils' focus and engagement across the curriculum
- Using the arts to improve attendance and general behaviour
- Using the arts to address issues such as inclusion and diversity
- Providing opportunities for artists and artist groups
- Working in partnership with teachers, schools and Local Authorities
- Continuing legacy of professional development benefits for teachers and educators

the programme Year 1-2



- Training for core artists, developing creative approaches to the science curriculum, using their specialist arts practice in innovative ways.
- **tees valley arts** to frame the first edition of an accessible teaching manual, based on work produced and approaches developed in the above training, which will be available to project participants. This manual will be revisited and refined throughout the project, leading to eventual publication of a nationally available teaching aid, and the launch of an interactive website with downloadable toolkits. This will incorporate feedback and evaluation from all partners. Thus we will produce a resource for teachers locally involved in the projects, and others nation-wide, interested in creative approaches to learning.
- INSET day for teachers to explore cross-curricular creative approaches. This day will be the essential springboard for teachers wanting to engage with an evolve project. (Opportunity re-offered in Year 2)
- Eighteen projects to be developed, designed and implemented in Tees Valley schools, using artists in collaboration with teachers, delivering aspects of the science curriculum in innovative ways. (Opportunity re-offered in Year 2)
- Training day for PGCE students looking at new ways of delivering the curriculum. These students will go on to mentored residencies with professional artists in education.
- Downloadable toolkits published and available on nominated websites. small world: Big Drums, is an existing creative coalition of people with disabilities. The group co-ordinators will deliver targeted arts projects in special schools.
- Evaluation of programme collated, published and disseminated.





evolve^{Training Days}

The **evolve** programme got off to a flying start with the INSET day for forty teachers at Arc on October 6th, and for fifty-three PGCE students at Stockton Riverside College on October 26th. I attended both in my capacity as overall evaluator for the programme, and made an invaluable contribution in my role as a piece of circuit wire passing current to some dim bulbs.....

On both days the aim of the programme was explained to participants – the practising teachers were immediately keen to try and develop new approaches to teaching science, while the PGCE students were initially more sceptical – perhaps exposure to real classes of schoolchildren will temper their confidence in traditional methods!

While all the participants may well have had initial doubts, these were largely dispelled as the days progressed, and a very good and productive time was had by all. The sight of groups of adults pretending to be the

digestive system (from top to bottom!), or shouting 'Penis' at each other while playing the Fruit Salad Reproduction game, will stay with me – you had to be there. I certainly think that the children who eventually experience these games/ dramas/ interactions will learn in a direct and enjoyable way that they will never forget. Many of those who spoke at the closing plenary and in general feedback admitted that they had been unconvinced beforehand, but said that they were now going away with new skills and ideas which they would definitely use in the classroom. The residencies and mentoring opportunities are currently being developed and arranged.

And as for the circuit wire impersonation – well, you all hold hands in a circle, and some of you are dim bulbs, and some are resistors, and some are speedy electrons, and then you get these balloons.....

Rowena Sommerville



Successful Soundwaves

The Arts Council North East has granted the education programme £30,000 to deliver the second year of the Waveband Project and broaden the 'Education through the Arts in Science and Industry' (EASI) Programme through environmental and science issues.

Lifecycle

Lifecycle is an exciting new project that will explore environmental issues with music that utilises recycled materials and performance poetry. Pupils in Tees Valley Schools will develop a performance piece that will be powered by "The Rinkydink Sound System" - a PA powered by bicycle. The Rinkydink Team will explore renewable energy and demonstrate how the pedal-powered system works. The project will culminate in a performance piece and CD that expresses children's views on the environment. Performances will take place in the school and the local community.



Waveband

The project is aimed at Year 10 GCSE Music pupils and follows their progression into Year 11. In the autumn term the children explored genre and instruments, including technique; study composition, the musical theme that has been given to each school and take part in creative sessions developing individual and group ideas to represent the theme. The project provides an opportunity for the music groups to share learning in a performance at the end of each academic year increasing confidence and self-esteem. A DVD has been created which features the processes and products of Year 1 including film, animation and the story of The River.

Year 2 begins 2005/06 with the formation of Tees Valley Ensemble(s) – featuring representatives from each school. The performance group focuses on the development of themes, skills, notation, learning, practising, rehearsing and performance this involves the schools, the artists and a guest composer. The pupils will work on an extra-curricular and voluntary level with the musicians to perform the original waveband composition with up to 2 feeder primary schools. To celebrate the participants achievements there will be high profile performance events of the collaborative piece in the Tees Valley.



Gallery^{TS1}

..Gallery^{TS1}..

The highly successful youth arts apprenticeship returned to Middlesbrough this summer. Gallery TS1, which operated in the town's bus station last year is a training scheme designed to inspire unemployed young people by engaging them in the creation and retail of high quality arts and crafts products. This years' gallery operated from a converted empty shop unit in Corporation Road, opposite Middlesbrough's Empire Theatre.

Project manager Mike McGrother was delighted with the project's new home: 'Gallery TS1 is specifically designed to be a highly visible and stylish concept and our new site puts us right in the heart of the town. As well as providing excellent training and engagement opportunities for young people, the project really adds to the cultural regeneration of the town by providing a vibrant and eye catching studio and retail space!'

The project was initiated by Middlesbrough Council's Cultural Services Department, and is based on a project, Gallery 37 that started 10 years ago in Chicago. This year's products included individual jewellery pieces; photographic images of the north east; candles; stationery and hair accessories.

The project was funded by Middlesbrough Borough Council's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, Connexions' Kick Start programme and Tees Valley Arts. Gallery TS1 ran for an initial 3 weeks, but proved so successful it will now stay open until Christmas. Most of the participants were referred on to the scheme by Connexions' Kick Start programme – an initiative to lead young people into work or training via creative and innovative pathways.

SYMO

SYMO documentary Killer Cure goes to Moscow is to be screened on Saturday, 3rd of December at the 7th London Disability Film Festival at the National Film Theatre. In 2003, Shoot Your Mouth Off made Killer Cure, a black comedy that was selected for screening at the Moscow disability film festival in 2004. The film makers were due to attend the festival. But nobody could have foreseen the events that ultimately changed the nature of the whole experience....



Roaring^{mouse}

You^{Are} Here

The Roaring Mouse Drama Group, in collaboration with Carpet Films, made a short film, Nuts for Pudding!, which depicts the battle between an Angel and the Devil for the health and well being of a man with Down's Syndrome. This film is to be shown at the Oska Bright Film Festival on November 28th in Brighton, and has been shortlisted for an award for best film under ten minutes. Karen Sheader, Steve and Del from Carpet Films, and the two leading actors will be travelling to Brighton to see if they've won the award and to size up the competition. The same film is to be shown at Paradigm UK's Ambition conference on 29th November in Manchester.



The You Are Here project (working with refugees and people seeking asylum) faces the same impending funding crisis as the other In:volve projects, but has been successful in gaining some (not huge) funding from the Home Office Purposeful Activities Fund, which will allow some residencies to go ahead, in digital arts and music and music technology. This news is so new that the actual money hasn't arrived yet!

Main activities in this quarter have necessarily been focussed around writing grant applications, but other hot news has concerned Syndou Diarrassouba, our star poet. Syndou has had his application to remain in the UK turned down, on the grounds that he has made such good progress here, there is no reason why he shouldn't go back. That is – back to Liberia where there is no education, no health care, and mostly no electricity.....

Anyway, the petition to support his staying here was presented to Middlesbrough Council by Bob Kerr, and received their agreement that Middlesbrough Council would then officially forward it to the Home Secretary for his consideration, with a letter of support from Ray Mallon. Syndou was also interviewed on Radio Cleveland and Tyne Tees Television. This has been a fantastic effort by all concerned, and we can only hope that Syndou will be allowed to stay this side of the 'horizon of hope'.

Rowena Sommerville



Rosi Lister has been appointed as the new Director of **tees valley arts** and took up her position in November. Rosi has come from a regional management post based at Hull University, where she has been directing the development of the widening participation agenda in the Humber through the Aimhigher government funding programme.

Previously Rosi had spent twelve years within art & design education, working with young people and staff in both formal and informal educational settings. Since 1999 Rosi has explored her own specific interest in the participatory environmental arts, and creativity as a vehicle of social engagement and change. This led to the birth and growth of her arts consultancy; **DruidArts** which has operated for the past few years throughout the north of England.

Rosi has been involved with the development and securing of funds for many projects over the years and is very much looking forward to working with the **tees valley arts** team in developing their vision for the future. Rosi has a grown up daughter Sasha – in gap year of Uni, studying Fashion, and partner David who is an ecologist.

tees valley arts launched its new website in October after working with local designers Calm Asylum.

The website features detailed information about our projects including the Education Programme and Community Programme while linking into Tees Valley Creatives that brings together groups and individuals who are, or wish to be, involved in a creative social enterprise. As part of the website all past projects will be archived in order to record the full diversity of projects **tees valley arts** are involved in. In addition to that a resources section will give access to tools which will support the delivery of the projects. A library of News, Press Releases and PDF Newsletters will also be developed.

Other functionalities such as an Artists Database, Publications Library, Useful Links and a full contacts area will be developed as part of the site structure. In addition to this the site will meet all accessibility criteria and allow users to control tools such as low graphics versions.

Please visit the site at www.teesvalleyarts.org.uk





tees valley arts can work with you to plan and set up a programme of creative activities, find a suitable artist, help to frame a budget and secure funding, and then manage the project, both artistically and administratively. If you have an idea you would like to discuss, please contact us:

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