

Focus on: Building Schools for the Future

Jess Bartindale- Change School Programme Manager



The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme provides capital investment to transform secondary schools in England to become 21st century learning environments. The investment for either full or part school re-builds is an excellent opportunity for schools to review not only the physicality of the school but the teaching and learning that takes place within it. Here at Future Creative, as part of the Creative Partnerships Change Schools Programme, we are working with 35 BSF schools supporting in-depth exploration of creative approaches to teaching and learning. These creative learning projects include a high level of continuing professional development for teachers and provide them with the platform on which to develop long-term, sustainable programmes which make strong links between pedagogy and space.

On the 19 October 2009 Paivi Seppala (creative agent) and I, led a workshop session at the Building Schools for the Future conference in Bristol. The workshop focused on the strong connections between the BSF programme and the Change Schools programme. It looked at The Cornwallis Academy as a case study, demonstrating how creative partners and school staff worked together to connect the two programmes and initiate positive whole school change.

In addition to the BSF programme in Kent, Future Creative is planning to work in partnership with Futurecity, a leading public art consultancy, to devise and deliver a comprehensive, embedded Cultural Strategy for schools in Essex. This strategy offers a grassroots approach to the use of creative learning and cultural activity in schools utilising the network of creative partners in the area.

For more information about Future Creative and the BSF programme please contact jess.bartindale@future-creative.org

Focus on: Arts Award

Stephen Fenning- Arts Award Regional Development Coordinator



The Arts award is an Arts Council and Trinity Guildhall initiative to support young people to develop as art leaders. Since it was launched in 2005 the arts award has helped over 30,000 young people to achieve 22,953 awards supported by over 10,000 professionals as advisors.

The Arts Award is offered on (Bronze, Silver and Gold) three levels 1, 2 and 3 on the English National Qualification Framework. It recognises many creative activities that help young people to engage in the Arts, develop self esteem and service the creative and culture sector by enabling young people to gain relevant work experience, skills leading to employment or further education.

The unique feature of the arts award is it can be used in many settings: Local Authority, Arts Organisation, Libraries, Formal Education Settings, Informal Education Settings.

Both Arts Council / Trinity Guildhall vision for young people development compliment the government policy for young people engagement in the arts. They strongly believe that the future of the creative economy depends on opportunities for children and young people to participate in arts and creativity.

This vision is driving by the national demand (national indicator 110) for young people to engage in positive activities as research shows that this contributes to their social skills and mental development and has a greater impact on their future life.

Future Creative and Arts Award is a perfect synergy as Future Creative aims to work collaboratively with partners from education, culture and business to improve the life chances of children and young people, through the development of their creative skills. This ideal is supported by the networks of Future Creative programmes and Creative



Partnerships work in schools. The skills and practices of the Future Creative partners also provide various opportunities for Arts Award to be embed.

In November 2009, the Cabinet Office Social Exclusion Taskforce, The National Care Advisory Service and DCSF published a document titled “Realising Young Potential” which aimed to outline the support for Local Authorities and their partners to further assist care leavers into education, employment and training (EET).

This is an important document which shows a significant move forward for the future in supporting young people that are hard to reach or have challenging behaviour. By setting measurable outcomes and involving key education institutions to provide a range of services for young people leaving care, they have the chance to exercise their potential gaining an enhanced education and contributing to improved future communities.

I am a great believer in potential and that by supporting young people with the activities or curriculum that they are interested in and talented at they will excel and be happier, confident and better educated individuals. Therefore, I am passionate about the Arts Award and the opportunities it offers to young people with potential to gain an accreditation leading to employment and contributing to build better future communities through creativity.

To find out more about the Arts Award please visit www.artsaward.org.uk or contact [Stephen Fenning](#) at Future Creative.