

## The Arts Society, Wessex Area Three-Year Research CPD project

### Art Education LEGACY gathering STEAM

#### Aims:

- To work with providers through financial support to offer high quality CPD for art teachers
- To raise awareness of the potential support of The Arts Society amongst art educators.

This is where we started 18 months ago. We had undertaken research into the needs of art teachers in both the primary and secondary sectors at a time when the arts were being marginalised. Teachers, NSEAD, the APPG group for Art & Design confirmed that training was required but that school budgets weren't available to fund this need.

The Arts Society, Wessex Area encouraged research into what CPD was required by teachers, who could provide this and the best way to bring these together.

Mandy Mills, Art & Design Education Specialist, is well known to local art teachers, having led workshops in Wiltshire, so we immediately could tap into her network. She asked the teachers what they wanted and when, so we had the start of a plan.

Twilight sessions with supper, working with an artist, at a local school meant we could make a start. Teachers had asked for a 3 D workshop to allow them to develop what is normally an expensive area of the curriculum.

Mandy then provided the link to GCSE & A Level syllabi by creating a PowerPoint with lesson ideas, connections to assessment targets, themes and links to other relevant artists. This meant that as well as the practical session with a sculptor, teachers went away with a memory stick full of ideas that they could use immediately. As it was planned for the evening entire art departments could come and work together and plan future lessons together.

We now have had two sessions hosted in different schools and the feedback has been extremely positive. This has also led to one school running a workshop for their primary feeder schools to encourage Drawing to Learn so that this supports learning across the curriculum. We have received excellent feedback from teachers.

- ***"I didn't want to come tonight as I was tired and stressed. However, I'm so glad I did as I have learnt new skills, discussed how to use them with my colleagues and feel refreshed!"***
- ***After spending all my time giving it's so good to be fed new ideas, the opportunity to try them out and the relevant backup information to use back in school"***
- ***Since then I have written a completely new scheme for year 7 and have delivered it throughout this term with tremendous success***

We have been able to talk to individual teachers about how The Art Society could be an active support. This has made our contact with schools more effective and individuals have been able to apply for funding. Support has been provided to part fund an arts trip to Barcelona and also to pay for cover so that a teacher could go on a printmaking course. The feedback from just these two outcomes have been fulsome and amazing with one teacher spending the weekend rewriting lesson plans, schemes of work and ordering materials from Scrapstore. All this was fed back to members of the societies to show just what their money was spent on.

We are also in discussion with Art Societies in the south of the area to see how we can roll out the CPD provision in their area. We will be able to use resources and providers who know the local teachers and see what exactly is required. After discussions Roche Court Educational Trust are going to run a day's workshop on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 to start to address this need.

This will be: **"2D to 3D: explore, make, communicate"** and will provide teachers with the opportunity to work through various ideas, use materials and have a resource pack to take back to school with them. Legacy has been a watchword for us as we have moved through this project. By working with so many teachers across both primary and secondary schools we have helped develop ideas, practical skills and resources that can be used immediately as well as providing a base for future curriculum planning.

### **"Collaboration and Growth"**

The Wessex Young Arts theme has been Collaboration and Growth and we try to build on what we have achieved and reach out to new contacts and organisations to build a stronger network.

To that end we worked with Wiltshire Council's Learning Resources Hub to provide a day for headteachers, teachers, home educators and all the primary age children in West Wiltshire. This Science, Technology, Engineering Arts and Maths Day will demonstrate to the primary sector the opportunities and the potential of working across the curriculum and using the arts as a basis for creative learning. The Arts Society Wessex Area provided funding to help sponsor the event.

We invited The Holburne Museum Educational Department, Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Educational Department, Roche Court Educational Trust to have stands and they provided lesson ideas suitable for cross- curriculum development. They also ran some practical sessions so that the students and teachers could try a range of different activities.

The Arts Society Wessex Area also had a stand with a two-fold purpose.

One was to make contact directly with the other organisation present as well as headteachers to talk about who we are, what we do and to how we could potentially provide funding for follow up activities. The second was to provide sketchbook drawing activities based on Leonardo Da Vinci drawings and studies across a wide field of interests. Models of foetus, brain, ear and facsimiles of his sketchbooks inspired lots of children to spend time drawing on the day even though there were many other exciting things to explore. We met Council

members, local politicians and parents and were able to stress the importance of arts education and creativity directly with them.

There was a Teach Meet session for the teachers at the end of the day and all contributors were able to talk briefly about how they can support work in schools. The Arts Society Wessex Area showed how our societies were based across the county and could be contacted for support.

They are also funding a primary CPD twilight session following on from this day and a good number of schools have signed up, so the day provided triangulation between The Arts Society, teachers and providers

The positive outcomes are many. Legacy, skills development, network strengthening between schools and local Art Societies who are increasingly willing to work together to fund projects, making deeper connections with local schools and showing that we understand their needs and are willing to try to support and help them.

We have over a year of our initial three-year project plan to run and we are still learning and responding as well as developing our contacts across the Wessex area. As we develop our project it will alter to reflect the changing needs of our teachers and students, and this is what makes it exciting and relevant. To this end we need

- To create targeted lesson support for primary teachers that they can slot into their curriculum delivery
- To make connections with other providers and agencies
- To develop and strengthen the network across the area that will encourage collaboration and growth

I would like to thank Mrs Julie Price and Mrs Maggie Watts, principal organisers of the successful Wessex Study Days which has provided the funds to support this project

Heather Leach