



the *Kind's* school

specialising in maths and computing

# Creative Arts Policy



## CREATIVE ARTS POLICY

### **1** Policy Statement

'The Arts give us a sense of individual fulfilment. They help create our sense of identity, they challenge and inspire us and contribute to our sense of wellbeing' (Arts Council).

Arts Education at The King's School is an entitlement for all students both within the formal curriculum and through extra-curricular and community involvement. All students have access to a wide range of Arts experiences in individual disciplines. We work with the local community and the wider community by collaborating with community groups, Higher Education and Further Education institutions, and professional artists and arts organisations including links with international schools. Students have regular opportunities to celebrate achievement through showcase evenings, performances, shows, concerts and exhibitions.

### **2** Purpose

This policy seeks to position the Creative Arts within the life of The King's School, to signify its importance and to identify future developments.

### **3** Scope

All staff will fully recognise and understand the role the Creative Arts have to play in school life and in the lives of young people. They will be able to use the policy to inform their own work, where appropriate, and to develop cross-curricular links, where appropriate. Governors are made fully aware of the policy, of Arts activities and developments within the school.

### **4** Responsibility

**Staff** - all staff involved in the teaching of Performing Arts are expected to understand and implement the policy.

**Students** - students will understand the role of the Arts in society and the part it can play in their own personal and social development.

**The community** - parents, relatives and the wider community will be invited to performances, showcases, exhibitions and concerts, and on visits, to enable them to understand the role that the Arts have to play in young people's lives and to encourage their participation.

### **5** Publicity

This policy will be posted on the Shared (G) drive of the School's IT network and on the School website.

## **GUIDANCE**

### **Aims**

Our work is based on the belief that all young people are creative, that the artist is in everyone. We aim to:

- Develop young people as imaginative, creative beings with a lifelong interest in the Arts;
- Develop skills and confidence in using the language of the arts to communicate ideas about, and understanding of, their world;
- Engage with a variety of art forms to explore values, attitudes, feelings and meanings;
- Develop an understanding of the role of the Arts in society;
- Develop awareness and appreciation of the rich cultural diversity of art.

To achieve these aims we will provide all students with opportunities to:

- Experience and develop skills in a range of art forms;
- Develop skills in a range of media;
- Work independently and in teams;
- Share Arts experiences and present artworks to others.

We aim to identify and develop the expertise of staff, to share best practice, and to develop partnerships with artists and arts organisations.

### **Practice**

- (i) Staff in Art, Dance, Drama, Media and Music are all specialists and some are, or have been, practitioners, performing, writing or working in the Arts. They are all committed to Professional Development, both as teachers and artists. Staff are involved with a wide range of bodies including the University of Leeds, The National Theatre, London, Wakefield College, Theatre Royal and The Hepworth Wakefield, Salts Gallery, the Rotary Club, The British Arts Council, Musical Futures, CAPA Wakefield, Trinity College, London and Trust Carol Service held at St Giles Church.

Technical staff - January 2015. We are given two hours technical support for Art.

Many other staff participate in or contribute to Arts activities including the school production and arranging visiting Theatre Companies.

Other than permanent teaching staff we have 6 peripatetic staff and a cubase specialist Musician who works with GCSE Musicians in composition lessons. We also have a part-time Dance specialist who works with the PE Department and runs extra curricular events.

#### **(ii) Arts Management**

‘Combined Arts is often the place where art is reinvented and reinvigorated’ (Arts Council). Working in collaboration encourages diverse and innovative practice, it allows students to take risks and explore new ways of working.

Arts subject areas provide annual Departmental Development Plans which seek to raise attainment and provide quality opportunities for students to engage in The Arts. Monitoring of the outcomes, policies and developments regarding Arts education is carried out at regular meetings with the Senior Leadership Team (Line Manager) and an annual evaluation meeting (COSIM) with the Headteacher.

Governors will support and challenge the area through attendance at meetings, visiting the students in lessons and attending events.

### **(iii) The Curriculum**

#### **a) KS3**

All students study Drama, Music and Art as separate subjects. They study Literature and the media in English and Design Technology. Dance is currently taught through PE in January. Students participate in Art, Music and Drama for one hour per week in KS3 and two hours per week in KS4. There are also major events which cross timetable boundaries such as a Shakespeare Day and various workshops and events run by professionals. Students in each year study a unit of Dance with further opportunities being offered through clubs community links and Gym and Dance shows. Music is a Musical Futures Champion and offers training to other colleagues twice a year.

#### **b) KS4**

All students have the opportunity to opt for Arts or Design Technology subjects or Media Studies to be taken at GCSE: students may take more than one Arts options. GCSE PE offers an assessed Dance unit. All students study Literature and aspects of Media in English. Each GCSE option has four hours per cycle, English has seven hours. From September 2014 the faculty also offers GCSE Performing Arts.

#### **c) ICT**

ICT plays an increasingly important role in arts education including Graphic Design, Music Technology, lighting design and control, video production and use of a virtual learning environment.

#### **d) Whole school developments**

The Arts play an increasingly important role in whole school developments in teaching and learning and in staff development. Whole Year Groups are offered opportunities through the Arts; visiting professionals, beat boxing, graffiti art, dance workshops, trip and theatre visits. With the introduction of the Enjoy & Achieve Days the Arts can offer enrichment activities. Community Cohesion events have taken place and hope to be developed further.

### **(iv) Extra-Curricular**

The King's School has an increasingly vibrant extra-curricular life, with extension activities taking place on most nights of the week and often combined with community involvement.

Students are offered opportunities to join clubs and performance groups, to receive extra tuition and coaching, and to enhance work done in the formal curriculum. The faculty runs subject specific extra-curricular clubs but there is often whole faculty trips, theatre visits and activities, such as London Theatre Experiences and productions, for example our production of Grease in July 2014. There is an annual visit to Disneyland Paris where our most able students perform on the Videopolis stage.

In Drama: Drama clubs offer opportunities to all Year Groups. Students can be involved in acting, singing, dancing, designing, writing, directing and technical work. There are regular showcases of student work, open to the public. Theatre visits are an integral part of the student experience, and there is an annual visit to London to see performances and participate in workshops.

In Music: Clubs include a choir, a vocal group, a ukulele band, a jazz band, a rock band, a fiddle and flute group and a stage band who perform at Disneyland Paris annually. Music composition workshop and performance workshops are run for GCSE Music students.

In Art: Art Homework Club and Art Coursework development. Gallery visits, workshops and drawing experiences are an integral part of the students' experience.

In PE: Gym and Dance Club is taught by a part-time Dance specialist, culminating in a showcase evening in March.

In Dance Club: Choreography and Dance workshops developed within Drama performances. In January a specialist dance teacher also joined the faculty and we hope to develop this strand further in the future.

(v) **Community Cohesion and International Links**

- a) Drama students participate in the annual Liquorice festival in Pontefract.
- b) Music students develop links with the wider community by participating in the Trust Carol Service and Pontefract Music Festival.
- c) Wakefield College Transitions Project.
- d) Pontefract Bus Station Art displays.
- e) Pontefract Music Festival poster Competition - King's winning entries
- f) 3D ceramics workshop with all feeder primary schools in the trust Yr5 in July.
- g) Developing links with St. Giles Primary school in Pontefract. We have shared ideas and discussed joint links with future arts projects
- h) One World Classrooms - International Exchange of student's art work. Online visual resources and shared students work from around the world
- i) Arts Award Bronze partnership for moderation with the International School of Boston.
- j) E-twinning and Comenius project (British Council Funding). International Student residential exchange and working towards links with schools worldwide. The focus being art meets maths.
- k) Host of six European schools in May 2014 showcasing our school principals with a focus on arts and maths.
- l) Arts photographic competition. A Winter Scene 2014.
- m) Photographic talk on A level options in Art and Design from New College, Pontefract.
- n) Future Stars Competition - Students in Year 9 won local heats and performed at Wakefield Cathedral.
- o) Wakefield Battle of the Bands. Year 11 students won the competition held at Unity Works in October 2014.
- p) Arts Calendar Year 7 competition - charity fund raiser for Year 11 prom and Pontefract Food Bank.
- q) National Prize awarded from Berol based on calendar designs.
- r) Year 11 School Leadership logo design for Leadership room within school.
- s) Artists and Arts Organisations - These include Wakefield Theatre Royal & Opera House, Hepworth Wakefield, Salts Mill Shipley, Shakespeare Schools Festival, Company 'A' Theatre 'CAT', Pineapple Dance Studios, London Theatres, The National Theatre, Cubase Specialist technician - specialising in composing music through ICT software - 3 hours per week including after school one to one support.
- t) The Hepworth Gallery and Wakefield Council prize winners for public art - A permanent installation in Pontefract town centre

#### **(vi) Facilities**

One Drama Studio equipped with multi-functional lighting, a multi-purpose hall equipped with lighting and sound facilities, plus a second room which is used for Drama and Art, two Music teaching rooms, two practice rooms, Gym, Sports Hall and a Media suite. Art has two dedicated teaching rooms - one with kiln. Dance through PE has access to both the Gym and Sports Hall.

#### **(vii) Future Plans**

- These include equipping the Drama Studio with improved lighting and sound;
- Additional ICT facilities in Music to meet the needs of increasing numbers taking GCSE Music;
- The appointment of a Arts Technician;
- A PAT Partnership Festival of the Arts;
- Developing further links with other schools within the Pontefract Educational Trust;
- To update and develop ICT in Art (D4 & D5);
- To develop more enrichment opportunities in Dance through Enjoy & Achieve Days, also develop links with the 'CAT' Theatre Company;
- To develop more cross-curricular opportunities through the Arts and link with a variety of subjects. A plan is in place to link Music with MFL Spanish;
- To promote the Arts and offer the Arts Awards to students in Year 8 Bronze Award and Silver Award in Year 9 and Year 10;
- Further develop the KS4 curriculum and explore BTec options in Performing Arts;
- Re-furnish D5 and D4;
- To develop further links with the Primary Trust Schools during their Arts week;
- To develop and offer training to Partner Schools and Primaries within the Trust (sharing good practice).