

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional, ESF-funded 'Careers Local' programme
Curriculum Provision	✓	Adding value to an existing scheme of work
Employer Partnerships	✓	Involving a local wildlife and conservation area
Reflective Young People	✓	Helping to develop individual skills and abilities
Informed Career Choices	✓	Highlighting conservation organisations and roles

### Year 8 artwork helps RSPB/National Trust promote the range of local moorland birdlife

Brookfield Community School in Chesterfield had chosen six curriculum areas to create exemplar projects as part of a strategic plan to enrich subject learning in partnership with local employers. As part of their Art studies, year 8 students are required to complete a 'British Birds Collagraph' unit of study, part of which requires them to 'Learn to recognise the characteristics of British Birds'. The work of previous year 8 students is displayed on the corridor walls.

The Eastern Moors Partnership (EMP) is a joint venture of the National Trust and the RSBP, looking after part of the Peak District just a few miles up the road from the school. The entire site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and has a diverse mix of wildlife, including bird life.

The students were presented with images of over a dozen bird species found on the Eastern Moors and told that the EMP team would look at their artwork. One of the EMP rangers visited the school to give feedback about a short-list of work that had best met the learning outcomes. As well as identifying stand-out illustrations, she talked about her role and the work of the EMP. The assembly of year 8 students heard that a selection of the best work would be displayed over the coming holidays at the National Trust visitor centre and via social media, promoting 'bird of the week'.

### Benefits for the Students

- *'The bird I created was one of my favourite pieces of art I have ever made, even though I didn't make the short list I was happy with my result'*
- *I am proud of, 'The fact that I have sent my own art out to be judged by a quite important company in our area'*
- *'The owl I created was a success because how the bird came out because I increased the size of the bird to make it stand out'*
- *'I am proud that I learnt how to draw for a reason and the way I used the tone and sketch to draw the outline to the birds'*
- Impact data showed the project particularly helped students to, *'Develop my individual personal skills and abilities'*

### Benefits for the School

- 'It allows them to see how their artistic talent can be used and can be applied in the widest sense. They will be able to show their parents on social media and see their work on display'
- 'For them to see their work valued in the wider community gives them a tangible stepping stone from their practical work'
- 'We've taken an existing scheme of work developed by one of my colleagues, which was really good, and we've just added value to it'

### Benefits for the Employer

- 'It's hard for a school to take 200 pupils out on to the moors. There are other ways to engage and Art is a really great way to do that'
- 'They had clearly understood who we are, why we're here and what we do'
- 'For us, it's about engagement. We want to be part of the community and we want to be a name on people's lips – for these young people to go home and tell their families about us'
- '[Looking at the pictures], it just came alive and in the background you could hear skylarks singing and the wind blowing through the meadow grass'



Responding to illustrations and a brief from the Eastern Moors Partnership, year 8 students applied art skills learned in the classroom. Some of the illustrations they produced were chosen for use in a social media campaign and to be displayed at a nearby National Trust visitor centre.