

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a strategic commitment across the academy trust
Curriculum Provision	✓	Enriching an established scheme of work for year 7
Employer Partnerships	✓	Linking with an established local art and craft gallery
Reflective Young People		
Informed Career Choices	✓	Raising awareness about art-related roles at an early stage

### Local high street gallery helps teaching staff elevate perceptions about Art at year 7

Arnold Hill Academy in Nottingham is part of the Trent Academies Group, which has a commitment to developing students' employability across all their schools. The brief from the head of Art stated that, *'We would like to give students a project based real life experience of how the art industry works to encourage employability and to make students aware of the range of career paths available within the Art and Design world'*.

In term 1, year 7 students work on an established 'Sunflowers' project. This involves developing basic drawing and painting techniques, learning about two artists and learning about polyboard printing. The students (x10 classes) study this over six weeks during one lesson each week.

Focus Gallery in Nottingham was established over 40 years ago and displays some of the best art and craft work by professional and highly skilled artists from this area and across the UK. A short video message from the gallery owner shared details about the gallery, her background and the range of artists providing pieces on display. She also promised to visit the school at the end of the project to comment on students' work and to showcase the best work in the gallery.

The brief drafted for the partner employer proposed that, *'The gallery would potentially benefit from: Increased awareness about your gallery among families of the students (x250), Local PR coverage that could be associated with the project, visible example of community engagement by the gallery; and personal enjoyment from working with young people'*

### Benefits for the Students

- The project engaged over 200 students who were taught in six separate classes
- All students were aware from the outset that their work might be displayed at the gallery
- Self-assessment showed that 65% rated enjoyment of the project as 4 or 5 (on a 1-5 scale)
- 'Self-Motivated' and 'Achieving' were the skills identified by students as most-developed
- *'I felt very excited. I didn't expect my work to be picked out'*
- *'I was excited and nervous ... because I wanted to make it look good'*
- *'It makes me more confident about my work ... and I could have a career in Art'*

### Benefits for the School

- Teaching staff expressed concern that Art is sometimes perceived at light relief from more academic or 'important' subjects, with only one hour each week in the timetable
- As well as motivating students to do their best possible work in the Art lessons, the project contributed to learning about career options at the start of their secondary education
- 3-4 local art galleries were approached while seeking a suitable partner for the project. The Surface Gallery also offered help – and are being involved in a year 8 Art project

### Benefits for the Employer

- Focus Gallery is well-established and located near the city centre, 2-3 miles from Arnold Hill Academy. The project raised the profile of the gallery among students and their families
- Displaying work by young people from Nottingham among the other artwork demonstrated the gallery's commitment to the local community and to encouraging young talent
- *'It's important to encourage ... and by showing that you can do (Art) later on in life, it's important to carry on and do that'*



Antonia Disney, Gallery Owner

A short video message by the owner of Focus Gallery gave students a taste of working life in the Art sector, also promising to showcase the best work produced from among the nearly 250 year 7 students at Arnold Hill Academy

