

Creative Magpie - Art specific CPD. Bringing together creative practitioners across the region to learn, share and magpie new ideas, techniques and skills.

Siobhan Verrall, Kenton School

Background

Kenton School is recognised at a National Level for excellence and innovation in the Arts and offers an extensive and inclusive Arts curriculum with the core belief that Arts education is a fundamental right for all young people regardless of ability and socioeconomic background. The school is committed to ensuring all students receive a broad and balanced curriculum with the Arts at the heart of the curriculum. Kenton's Creative Arts team is proud to be different, breaking the mould in Arts education. Described by Ofsted as the 'Beacon of Arts in the North of England' for our unique stance and commitment to the Arts, at a time when the Arts are in decline, Kenton's Creative Arts team have shared their vision at the House of Commons raising the profile of Art Education nationally.

Kenton School is a Gold Artsmark School on a two-year journey to Platinum accreditation and shortlisted as TES Creative School of the Year 2019, and the Art team is currently shortlisted by Pearson National Teaching Awards for FE Team of the Year.

Statement of Focus

To develop and lead a regional Art specific CPD event to bring together creative practitioners to share and magpie new ideas, techniques and skills. To fill a much-needed professional development gap of subject specific training, creative dialogue and skill share for creative practitioners across the North East. The event would support personal professional development, allowing practitioners to keep up to date with current thinking and initiatives in the Arts, encourage, share and support new ideas in a collaborative manner and create a dialogue about cultural learning.



Project design and implementation

The Creative Arts team assessed the culture provision at Kenton School using an audit tool. 7 of the 9 areas scored highly between 4 and 5 showing high confidence in vision, staffing, differentiation, facing outwards, teamwork, extracurricular, and recognition and celebration of success. The two areas which scored as a 3 (medium confidence) were CPD- Job related development, and subject support.

The Arts team were keen to develop this as a focus for both the Cultural Leadership course and an area of development to ensure our two-year journey from Gold to Platinum Artsmark is successful.

The team wanted to see what other schools and colleges were doing, learn new skills and share best practice. The team had previously taken part in a skill share in the department across our 5 Art endorsements and found the experience positive for both personal professional development and professional dialogue. The idea to scale up the event and open to other schools and colleges and creative professionals was the next step.

An early win in the planning stage was collaborating with NEATEN (North East Art Teachers Educator Network): this allowed us to reach a large Art specific audience and recruit 21 outstanding speakers. I used the platform of the network meeting at The Baltic to present the event and follow up online through their social media platforms to share updates and market the event. Schools around the region were invited to collaborate, champion and celebrate creativity, with a key focus on engagement and inclusivity. Creative practitioners would share and magpie new ideas, techniques and skills. The only requirement was to bring something creative (projects, sketchbooks, photographs, student work from your school) to display on the evening to share good practice and allow others to magpie ideas that promote creativity, engagement and inclusivity.



Susan M Coles
@theartcriminal

What a turnout for another @NEATENart (a joint venture with splendid @KentonArt) event - where the rooms were bursting with Teachers, a fab display of work and a super fast sharing sequences TEACHMEET. Well done and thanks to ALL who contributed and who made it happen.



Mr Raymond
@NE_ArtTeacher

Siobhan Verral talks about the upcoming skills share @KentonArt next Wednesday evening @NEATENart #MAGPIE



Paul Carney
@PaulCarneyArts

Siobhan Verrall introduces her Creative Magpie Teachmeet event at @KentonArt in Newcastle next week



The Project's impact

The Creative Teach meet 'Creative Magpie' attracted 21 outstanding creative speakers from 15 schools across the region with over 90 creative practitioners in attendance from across 35 schools. This was the first of its kind in the North East, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, connecting schools throughout the region, upskilling and sharing good practice. Magpie rooms shared inspirational, inclusive and engaging projects, techniques and ideas.

Event questionnaires demonstrated how positive the evening was with 100% of the 90 questionnaires answering **yes** to finding the event useful.

- As a trainee teacher it has been invaluable to see how other schools work. Thank you, it's been amazing, a super informative event.
- Excellent range of skills - great presentations.
- This would be great to have once a year with a different school each time hosting to share the weight of organising.
- Best CPD I've ever been to.
- Fab experience, really inspiring ...Thank you!
- An amazing event the quick pace was perfect.
- Thank you very much for allowing this type of awesome event to happen.
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- Thank you it's great to see loads of inspired, able art teachers.
- This was absolutely great – thank you for organising, it's nice to see what other art departments and teachers are doing elsewhere.
- Loved the varied types of skills, lots of new tips.
- This event was amazing, discussions with Art teachers, exemplar work and valuable CPD.



Summary

Although time consuming in planning mainly due to the demand, the event was a huge success and came together seamlessly, with a lot of enjoyment and enthusiasm. It allowed Kenton School to showcase the Creative Arts department, provided an opportunity for personal professional development and allowed creative practitioners to network and have creative and cultural dialogue. The event provided robust evidence for all 7 Arts Council

Quality principles and Platinum Artsmark grading for CPD and staff development. The event showcased high-quality teaching of arts and culture by offering CPD opportunities to other settings and sharing resources. Key staff supported, developed and led CPD beyond the setting.

The event was supported by Kenton students who also participated in the workshops and found the event to be inspiring and very informative. Using Guskey's five critical levels of evaluation, student learning outcomes indicated that students found the event purposeful, positive, and engaging and have embedded new ideas and techniques into their portfolios. The event also boosted student confidence in leadership and organisation.



