

Create Space - Term 2

The Create Space project has been a resounding success in its second term. The young people have responded to the arts workshops with enthusiasm and willingness to engage and the project partners have been highly supportive.

The sessions this term are being delivered at the Dunoon Grammar School Learning Centre where young people have mild to complex learning needs. These range from Autistic Spectrum Disorder to emotional/behavioural needs. COS staff are working closely with teachers and assistants to ensure that the needs of the young people are met and that they were supported throughout.

The workshops are led by artist Bonita Ellmore and young people are encouraged to express their creativity, celebrate their individuality and share their thoughts and feelings about their lives. We are currently in week three of six visual art sessions split into one-hour workshops with groups of six young people in each. Throughout the project Bonita has used a variety of media including print-making, clay, painting, and stencilling. It is her aim for the young people to complete screen-printed T-shirts by end of this term. Jane Dee will be assisting Bonita for two sessions in March and Kirsty (Argyll Abode) will be introducing Makrame in two workshops at Kirn Primary School. We currently have our trainee, Zuzannah from DGS Advanced Higher Art Department assisting in the majority of the workshops and hope to have one other trainee join the project from mid-February.

Supporting Communities Fund

After February half term holiday Bonita will also be running five workshops in Kirn Primary school for the Supporting Communities Fund.

Exhibition

We have provisionally booked Dunoon Burgh Hall's main hall on the 25th and 26th of April to display the entirety of the work produced by partner schools. DBH have also offered us their cafe space to exhibit a selection of work for up to two months from this date onwards. It is hoped to have two COS artists run workshops for schools on these dates and invite all participants to view their work at Dunoon Burgh Hall.

Feedback

Ruth Smeaton (Teacher, Learning Centre, Dunoon Grammar School)

"The pupils were very engaged and all produced final products. The workshops promoted social interaction between pupils and staff and increased pupils' confidence in their ability to produce a piece of art. The time allocation suited the pupils needs and workshops were well resourced."

Zuzannah Jelonkiewicz (Teaching Assistant)

"I think the workshops are great and the pupils really enjoy themselves. They had fun making their designs then printing over them again. They were all talking and laughing and praising each other. It was wonderful to see them engaging so much and having an enjoyable class."

Kerry Nixon

"The young people involved in the workshops were completely engaged from the start. Bonita created such a calm and creative atmosphere and the young people responded with enthusiasm and willingness to participate. I observed a great improvement in confidence and ability to communicate ideas from the start to the end of each project."

Pupil Feedback (Names not included for GDPR)

"I've been going to my core art classes and doing much better work because I'm here."

"I loved making my own print"

"I liked making the design and with pencil and rolling the paint to print."

Participants So Far

18 from Dunoon Grammar School

25 from Dunoon Primary School

12 from Toward Primary School

12 from Innellan Primary School

Age range from 10-16 years