

Secondary Schools Arts and Culture Offer 2023/2024

Subscribing schools can choose from our range of quality assured practitioners to deliver either a Creative Careers session or a Process and Play Workshop. The workshops can vary in length to allow our practitioners to work with between 1- 4 classes in a day, depending on the art form and the school requirements. Additional workshops days can also be purchased via the services4schools portal.

Headteachers and Art/Artsmark Coordinators: If you would like to meet with Laura-Kate Pontefract to discuss your requirements, please email her at: laurakatepontefract@sthelens.gov.uk to arrange an online meeting. We are keen to ensure that all activities are tailored to individual school's requirements and so the project proposals below have been created with some flexibility. If you are currently on your Artsmark journey, our activities will support you with this and Laura-Kate will discuss this with you.

Once you have selected from the list below, please email laurakatepontefract@sthelens.gov.uk so that she can introduce you to the practitioner and you can begin to make plans.

Our Practitioner Activities

Altru Drama CIC www.altru.co.uk

Creative careers sector: Drama

Suitable for Key Stage 3 and 4

Altru Drama are a creative, non-profit organisation. They use drama as a tool to deliver messages, explore issues and develop skills. They work both in schools and community settings delivering a variety of drama workshops on endless topics.

Creative Careers session

Altru's Creative Careers session will include:

1 Hour format



Presentation- An Altru Practitioner will give a talk on all the different jobs available as an Actor, Drama Practitioner, Director and Writer, discussing the differences between work in Theatres, Television and Communities.

Question & Answer –Students taking part in the session will have a chance to ask the Practitioner any questions about either the work they do or work within the performing arts industry.

Physical Activity- The students will take part in a physical drama activity, which will allow them to explore what it is like to apply for a job within the arts. They will role-play taking part in a workshop led audition and will be guided through the types of things Casting Directors and Theatre Directors are looking for when auditioning candidates. This will allow the students to understand the personal qualities they may need to secure a job as either an Actor, Director, Drama Practitioner, Stage Writer or Screenwriter.

A longer 2 hour – half day session would include an additional physical activity and a written activity to further explore the different job roles within Theatre; Director, Writer, Actor, Sound Engineer, Lighting Design, Costume, Stage Manager, Front of House, Theatre Manager etc.

Process & Play Session

Challenging Choices Short Film Workshops

Artform: Drama

Challenging Choices is an innovative programme from Altru, which is designed to support young people aged 11 +. The programme is perfect for tackling difficult social issues linked to PSHE and RSE.

Altru can deliver up to 6 workshops in one day (maximum 35 students per workshop) on one of the themes below:

- Healthy Relationships
- Knife Crime & Country Lines
- Cannabis

On the delivery day your students will watch a short film of a character's story, then be encouraged to explore the choices made by the character through creative discussion led activities. In just 45 - 60 minutes, the impact of a Challenging Choices session can be huge. Hearing a character's story delivered by an actor helps students to discuss the issue. The use of a fictional character makes it easier for them to be more open about their thoughts and opinions as it provides them with a safe and creative framework from which to base their thoughts.

The workshop that follows the film gives young people the chance to discuss and explore - taking an active part in their own learning and development.



Claire Weetman www.claireweetman.co.uk

Visual Art

Suitable for Key Stage 3 & 4

Claire Weetman is an artist who makes drawings, prints, installations and public interventions that visualise how we navigate through spaces, connect with others and observe the traces of things that are difficult to see. Claire creates work for exhibition and as part of projects that work with people and communities as well as working as an arts producer/curator, supporting other artists to develop their work.



Creative Careers session

Claire's Creative Careers session will include:

- A short introduction to Claire and her career path from secondary school to practising artist.
- An opportunity for students to look at and handle a selection of Claire's artworks. Including discussion in groups on what the artworks are, how the works are made and why with an opportunity to feedback to the rest of the group.
- A practical creative activity related to Claire's recent practice - this could include print making, drawing, book-making, a performative action or the creation of a video work. The available time will determine how in-depth this activity can be.

A longer (2.5 hours), intensive practical session is available that provides an insight into the freelance existence of an artist and the jobs that exist in the visual art industry. During this session teams of students will work together to plan and deliver an exhibition or arts project, with students taking on different roles that are involved in the industry (Curator, producer, Installation technician, Marketing & graphic design, Education & interpretation, administration, and finance).

Process & Play Session

Wishes on the Wind

Artform: Drawing and print making

This workshop combines observational drawing, relief printing processes and a communal activity to collect wishes and hopes from across the school.

An observational drawing session will look at seasonal natural forms collected from the school grounds or a location nearby - for example sycamore helicopters and acorns in autumn, dandelions, and flowers in spring. These drawings will be transformed into rubber stamps, which will be used to create individual prints, and potentially an animated artwork. The activity will focus on how seeds are symbols of hope, that can be planted and grown, a mirror to the learning journey that happens within a school.



A whole-school activity is available as a pre-recorded video, which involves a simple drawing activity and the recording of wishes and hopes for the future. There are additional cross-curricular resources available that connect with the workshop for further engagement beyond the delivered workshops.

Claire can also provide tailored visual art sessions that focus on techniques such as drawing and installation.

Dave Bixter www.davidbixter.co.uk

Graphic Design

Suitable for Key Stage 3 and 4

David Bixter is a freelance Artist, Graphic Designer, Videographer and Musician. He has worked on a wide variety of projects, including creating multi-sensory visual and sound artworks, exhibition curation, large-scale public artworks, logo and identity designs for businesses and projects, as well as designs for websites, books, newspapers, promotional material and educational resources.



Dave has a creative and organic approach to interpretive design, creating work that is unique and meaningful to each individual project. He specialises in working with schools and developing creative activities to enhance teaching and learning across the curriculum. By creating educational resources, inspiring CPD sessions for school staff and engaging practical workshops for students, Dave uses his artistic practice to enhance the creative skills of others.

Creative Careers session

Dave's Creative Careers session will include:

A presentation

Dave will talk about his background as a visual artist and how it has influenced his approach to graphic design. He will show examples of his work and the processes he uses to create interpretive designs for a variety of outputs, with a particular focus on design work carried out in Saint Helens.

Design Activity

Dave will lead the students in developing proposals based on different design briefs. Students will work in small teams to design logos, select fonts and a meaningful colour palette (checking for colour-blind accessibility issues) and expand their ideas into a business Identity.

To carry out research for the designs, this session will require students to have access to computers or tablets with internet access. If students are familiar with CAD software, then this can be used to create elements of the brief, but this is not essential and most of the design work can be completed using pencils and paper. In addition, students will use the Adobe Color [sic] website as part of this activity.

Process & Play Session

The Shape of Sound

Artform: visual art and soundscape

Dave Bixter is a visual artist and musician who creates interactive soundscape experiences using new technology to explore links between sound and drawing.

In this multi-sensory workshop, participants will:

- Interact with experimental instruments and create sounds through movement and play
- Turn drawings into music by linking mark-making with sound to develop melody lines for a group sound piece
- Map out rhythm loops with abstract shapes and develop an electronic “drum kit” through sampled vocals and body percussion
- Explore various artistic processes, combining drawing, mono-printing, wire sculpture and film making



Emmer Winder - www.emmerwinder.co.uk

Visual and Conceptual Art

Suitable for Key Stage 3 & 4

Emmer has a background in conceptual socio-political art, there has always been a thread of meaning, language and symbolism in her work which has been her main passion. Working across numerous creative sectors for over 20 years, adapting to different practices and roles Emmer has built up a comprehensive skillset.

Since starting her photography business over 20 years ago, Emmer has embraced opportunities to expand her understanding and experience in the creative sector. This has led to delivering workshops, and eventually to teaching art and Photography in secondary school. Through her teaching she has discovered the fear of drawing felt by many, finding alternative drawing methods to remove this anxiety has become a focus within Emmer's sessions.

Emmer sees her career within the arts as a constantly evolving journey of personal development and self-study to further understand digital graphics, installations, printmaking and conceptual sculpture along the way. Over her creative process, Emmer has built strong connections with socially engaged and community lead projects. Being able to facilitate and run projects which deal with issues around mental health and social influence have allowed conversation and interaction with participants to become part of Emmers work. Recently, Emmer has begun to exhibit work and curate events and festivals which reflect the societal and analytic themes that run through much of her work.

Creative Careers session

Emmer's Creative Careers session will include:

Creative Careers Session: 1 hour format

- Emmer will introduce and discuss her journey from school to present day in an informal presentation which highlights the importance of grasping experimental and exploratory opportunities.
- Start a discussion on how to approach the unknown, and the dreaded imposter syndrome felt by many creative practitioners.
- Set a short digital task which challenges students to: think critically at speed and design a visual image using symbolism to communicate a message.

Creative Careers Session: 2 hour format

- Emmer will introduce and discuss her journey from school to present day in an informal presentation which highlights the importance of grasping experimental and exploratory opportunities.
- Ignite a discussion on how to approach the unknown, lockdown creativity and the dreaded imposter syndrome felt by many creative practitioners. We will also touch on the results of working with dyslexia within the creative process.
- An interactive challenge will be set to create a digital design using Emmers 'Earworm' series, which takes song lyrics and found images to build a visual poster that speaks to the audience... a little too annoyingly!

Process & Play Sessions

Control Project

Artform: Conceptual art

The growing normalisation of social media is causing a negative effect on many young people. Students will explore portrait photography and mixed media art to experiment and create 'manipulated' versions of themselves.

Through group discussion pupils will explore the idea of judgement, cyber bullying, celebrity culture and empathy in terms of how we interact with social media and the digital world around us. This activity will be an enjoyable, fun and creative task underpinned with a powerful conceptual message that explores how visual art can be used to tackle important issues, make a statement, communicate ideas and explore emotions.



Laura-Kate Draws www.laura-katedraws.co.uk

Illustration, printmaking and product design.

Suitable for Key Stages 3 & 4

Laura-Kate has 14 years' experience working as a freelance illustrator and print maker, for a range of clients under her business name Laura-Kate Draws. Projects have included illustrations for a children's book, logo design, heritage art projects for Historic England and numerous sculpture painting projects for Wild in Art. Other clients have included The Royal Shakespeare Company, The New Birmingham Library, Arts Council Collection and The Royal Society of Chemistry. Further to this Laura-Kate has worked with a number of universities in the Northwest on their business mentoring programmes.



Alongside these commission projects Laura-Kate has developed her own range of illustrated products, which comprises greetings cards, hand painted digital prints, screen prints and screen-printed apparel and printed ceramics which she sells on Etsy and at a variety of arts and crafts markets around the Northwest.

Creative Careers session

Laura-Kate's Creative Careers session will include.

- **An artist talk:** exploring her career as an illustrator with examples of her key projects, her route into the industry (including her education/ career path) the realities of being freelance including day to day tasks, advice for budding illustrators and what transferable skills are needed to succeed in this sector.
- **A short creative task:** This will allow students to experience the fast past nature of a professional illustration brief. Themes for this activity can include character design for picture books creating designs for illustrated gifts and homeware. Students will consider what makes a successful character or product and learn about the process of generating designs.
- Optional sketch book review with students.

Process & Play Session

Illustration for Books

Art Form: Illustration

Laura-Kate explores storytelling through narrative illustration within her work and is currently looking to expand her practice into writing and illustrating picture books. She is interested in how images and words can work together to tell stories, share ideas and ignite our imaginations, as well as how picture books, comics and zines can be used to spread messages, share ideas and tackle difficult subject matter. Picture books need to work for both an adult and child audience and can become treasured pieces of art that stay with us throughout our lives.



In this workshop students will explore illustration within books, character design, creative writing, zine making and how to communicate stories and ideas using images and words. Students will look at specific techniques for creating books and zines including thumbnails, story boarding and creating convincing characters and story lines that children will connect with.

Mako Create www.makocreate.co.uk

Creative Career Sector: Animation, Film, Graphic Design, Photography, Website Design, Audio Production and Events.

Suitable for Key Stages 3 & 4

Mako Create provide unique, fun and engaging training and experiences in all things creative, digital and a variety of visual art forms – inspiring learners to embrace creativity and let their imagination run wild. We do everything from one-off taster sessions to full courses and events. Their goal is to encourage everyone to reach their full creative potential, no matter what their age or ability.



Mako Create also specialize in professional media services such as Animation, Film, Graphic Design, Photography, Website Design, and Event planning. They stage projects locally and further afield across the UK, collaborating with a diverse range of clients, ranging from small charities, schools, and community organizations to larger companies such as BBC, Google, and BFI.

Creative Careers session

Mako's Creative Careers session will include:

Careers Talk.

A Mako creative tutor will deliver an interactive talk and presentation about their journey into their creative field. This will include:

- A showcase of the different creative commission's Mako has been involved in.
- The different many different routes into creative industries
- Job opportunities and careers that are available and how to navigate them.
- How to stand out in a competitive industry
- Interview and application tips

Creative Activity.

Mako Create can deliver a creative workshop in several different subjects and are happy for the school to choose which they feel would be most suitable for their students.

Workshops include:

- Animation,
- Filmmaking,
- Graphic Design,
- Photography,

- Coding,
- Audio Production

All equipment will be provided for these sessions. Session length and student numbers will determine how in-depth each of these activities can be.

Process & Play Session

Design, Animate and Edit

Artform: Stop Motion Animation

Lights, camera, action! "Stop Motion Animation" is here to take you on a wild ride! In this workshop, you'll learn how to bring inanimate objects to life by creating your own stop motion animation. From lego bricks and plasticine models to paper sets and characters, the possibilities are endless! You'll develop a range of skills, including designing and creating materials for your animation, working in teams, and the technical skills needed to create visual art. And the best part? You'll create your very own one-minute animation that will leave everyone speechless!



VIP Puppets www.vippuppets.com

Puppetry, Character Design and Story telling Suitable for Key Stages 3 & 4

VIP Puppets create epic puppetry performances with intimate audience interactions. Their huge scale creations have wowed audiences from Glastonbury to Rajasthan. They create characters of epic proportions, teamed with moments of intimate audience interaction, providing quality; larger than life puppet walkabout acts for festivals and events. Rowan designs, creates these puppets as well as devising and performing the shows, alongside a highly skilled team of makers and performers.



She also runs workshops and Puppet Education Programmes, often leading to Giant Puppet Creations, as well as teaching Puppetry at LIPA annually.

Creative Careers session

Rowan's Creative Careers session will include:

An artist talk:

Rowan will introduce herself and her work, focusing on her varied career path from school through to setting up and running VIP Puppets, alongside her role as a creative practitioner, puppetry teacher and graphic facilitator. She will discuss the practicalities, possibilities, and challenges of a career in the arts, using images and film clips of VIP Puppets various giant puppets to enrich the learning experience.

Practical activity:

Following her talk Rowan will deliver a short newspaper puppet activity, in groups of three, participants will create a simple puppet using only newspaper, then work together to move and manipulate their puppet working as a team to bring their puppet to life. This workshop is extremely adaptable, allowing for student lead development of ideas and outcomes, and is an excellent team building opportunity, as well as giving pupils an insight into the art of puppetry.

Process & Play Session

Puppet making, character design and storytelling.

Artform: Puppetry

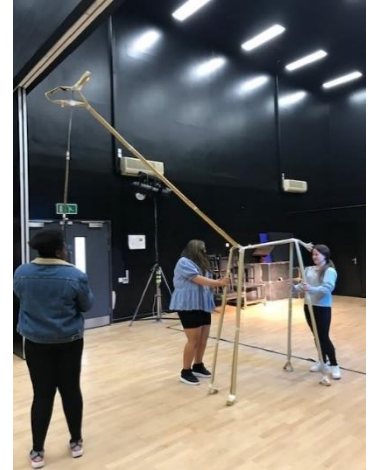
This workshop is an extended version of Rowan's popular newspaper puppet workshop in which pupils can explore creating giant paper puppets as well as smaller puppets. Pupils will work together in groups to bring their created puppet to life by exploring ways to move and manipulate their puppet by working as a team. Pupils can use their puppets to mimic the emotions and interactions of people and interact making puppetry an excellent mechanism to delve into a broad range of topics in a safe non-threatening way.

This is an amazing activity pupils will:

- Develop confidence and focus
- Explore nonverbal teamwork skills, focus,
- Utilise and build upon their fine motor skills,
- Learn about rhythm and performance skills
- Create characters and a story narrative

The session can facilitate students to delve into topics which interest them such as:

- Stories, poetry and spoken word: The puppets can improvise and develop a 'movement story' to bring writing to life.
- Dance: Puppets are unleashed into a puppet disco, where they can work as a team to develop movement and rhythm.
- Sport: Participants choose an olympic sport and create a short performance.



Capoeira for All CIC www.capoeiraforall.org

Dance, Movement, Music
Key Stages 3 & 4

Process & Play Session

Capo-RIGHTS programme

Capoeira for All is an acclaimed community arts organisation that uses the exciting and dynamic Afro-Brazilian art-form of *Capoeira* to inspire young people to realise their potential, explore their creativity, build confidence, develop cooperation & communication, encourage respect & empathy, and bring the school community closer together.

Capoeira combines dance, movement, martial arts, acrobatics, music and play. Rich in a history that dates back to the 1500's, its origins can be traced back to colonial Brazil and the struggle for freedom following the enslavement of Africans by Portuguese colonialists. This beautiful, physical art has



survived through hundreds of years of adversity, in 2014 was granted 'Cultural Heritage Status' by UNESCO and is an expression of values such as human rights, dignity, mutual respect and cultural understanding.

Capoeira for All workshops present this cultural art-form in an engaging inclusive and fun way providing participants with a range of unique learning activities and experiences. Workshops explore the values of Capoeira alongside Children's Rights (from the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child) and our shared values of equality, community and respect for each other and ourselves in all our diversity. Each session will introduce a new Right and this will be explored through an embodied learning approach. For single workshops, we will deliver a combination of the Rights principles.

Each session will include:

- Introduction to **Capoeira movements** and sequences, all delivered through engaging **games and activities**
- Brief discussion on **the history of Capoeira** and its significance today. Tied into the discussion of our basic Rights as individuals. i.e. Right to a voice and expression and Right to Safety
- **Musicality and rhythm** activities to develop our understanding on music and movement as well as learning Capoeira songs!
- Opportunities for young people to **collaborate** in a creative setting, practicing the movements and sequences learnt in the session but also applying their own **expression and creativity**.
- Introduction and practice of **basic acrobatics** such as cartwheels and handstands!

Curtis Watt <https://curtiswatt.wixsite.com/curtiswatt>

Spoken Word and Drumming
Key Stages 3 & 4

Process & Play Session

Curtis Watt is a writer, performer and musician, with almost 3 decades of experience in community and professional arts, exploring social issues, riddle poetry, slam poetry, beat making, self-expression and self-awareness.



SWAMP on Culture workshops explore and challenge preconceptions of our own cultures and those of others through critical thinking and discussion. The aim of the workshop is to help participants develop and share performance poetry based on the issues explored. Having been taken through the process, we will have a richer and more rounded understanding of the similarities and differences that exist between cultures, and how we can learn from each other, improve upon and celebrate what is good in our own.

All the above is delivered in a fun and interesting way that fully engages participants and gives them a chance to express and celebrate themselves and their peers.

The very definition of culture can be hard to pin down, so in these sessions we will learn to simplify the apparent complexities, and understand how we can turn our differences into individual pride and universal unity.

Practical Skills include, creative writing techniques, performance techniques, rap, beatbox, percussion working in teams towards shared goals, decision-making and critical thinking. For younger students, the topics will be explored through storytelling.

DanceSyndrome www.dancesyndrome.co.uk

Inclusive Dance

Suitable for Key Stage 3 & 4

Process & Play Session

DanceSyndrome is a multi-award-winning inclusive dance charity based in Lancashire with a special focus on including everyone, regardless of ability. Founded by Jen Blackwell who has Down's syndrome, they provide weekly inclusive dance workshops for people of all ages with and without disabilities, as well as Dance Leadership training. Their dance sessions are uniquely led by a Dance Leader with disabilities who, like Jen, are inspirational role models. Their work inspires and empowers both dancers and audiences to believe that opportunities are endless for people who refuse to be defined by disability.

DanceSyndrome would love to bring this authentic message into your school and to share their inclusive approach with your staff and young people of all ages. They can customise their delivery to meet your specific needs, but here are some ideas to give a taste of what they can offer:

Full day of workshops

Creative dance workshops which encourage positive health and wellbeing, teach transferrable life skills, demonstrate how we can use dance to communicate our ideas and feelings and also get young people to think about how they can actively work towards inclusion and an "ability, not disability" mindset.

Extended Delivery (requires purchase of additional workshop days)

Dance By Example is a unique dance leadership training programme which DanceSyndrome deliver to adults with and without learning disabilities to enable them to gain a level 1 qualification. This can be adapted to be delivered to Key Stage 4 students.



Possible outcomes:

- Group performances to share their work with their peers and further build their confidence.
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Henry Iddon www.henryiddon.com

Photography

Suitable for Key Stage 3 & 4

Process & Play Session

Henry is a photographer with 25+ years' experience working in the arts, with 2 Arts Council England funded projects / solo exhibitions. He has been involved in numerous group exhibitions in the UK and internationally including Brazil, Nepal, Italy and even Syria. He has extensive experience shooting for a range of editorial, commercial and broadcast clients including BBC World in London.



Sessions can be tailored to specific requirements and ability groups. Photography is a flexible medium that can be used to connect to various aspects of the curriculum, including science, the environment and PHSE. It can also be used to tell visual stories, build narrative and inspire words or stories using the 'Literacy Through Photography' approach. The workshops would allow people of all ages to experience how cameras work and the wonderful experience of seeing a photograph develop in a portable darkroom. The sessions can include any or all of the following activities.

- A brief history of photography and cameras
- Exploring how a camera is similar to your eye
- Making a wearable camera obscura, allowing participants to be 'inside' a camera and see how they work.
- Experimenting with light sensitive materials using cyanotype contact printing.
- Group work using a pinhole camera and processing black and white negatives in a portable darkroom. All PPE is provided.

Henry is a Youth Support Worker in a youth club and enjoys working with the language of 'resilience' when working with those young people who may be facing challenges in their lives.
