

Message from the Director

The Arts and Education Links Programme continues to be a great asset to the schools of West Dunbartonshire and plans for the coming few months are no less impressive than before.

New posts, new facilities and new information portals will help schools forge creative pathways for our pupils and teachers as well as consolidate long term plans for Programme growth and sustainability.

The Arts and Education Links Programme has also in recent months brought positive attention to the creative achievements of our young people - visits by MPs, MSPs, Executive Ministers as well as the Duke of Wessex have highlighted cultural success and ambition in equal measure.

Invitations to present at national conferences, including SETT, also reflect well on an authority that sees clearly where culture and creative participation can help our children achieve and attain.

The next few months will be set aside to examine how best the Arts and Education Links Programme can contribute to broad educational objectives. A Best Value Review of Council cultural provision should help position the Programme and its team to create maximum impact on behalf of our schools and pupils.

Bob Cook

Director, Education and Cultural Services

www.creativelinks-wdc.org.uk

drama

Big Bag

Worry Not Primary One...

As part of the Child Protection Committee's wish to see schools promote the principals the Children's Charter, the Council has 'commissioned' Impact Arts to visit all 34 primary schools with a touring theatre production of Virginia Ironside's Big Bag of Worries.

The short show is intended to help very young children understand the old adage that 'a problem shared is a problem halved'.

The show runs every day in September and the first week of October. Over 2,000 of our youngest pupils are set to benefit from this short drama intervention at the very beginning of the new academic year.

For more information call Gerry Neal on 01389 734199.

More Dramatic Choices

The pilot drama project at The Choices Programme is set to continue for another year.

A three way partnership between Choices, the Links Programme and St Andrew's High School saw drama worker Kate Black introduce a new SQA Access 3 course to young people in Choices. As a result two young men left Choices with an additional qualification in an arts subject.

We are delighted to welcome Kate back and look forward to developing the course work to benefit more young people in this way.

In addition in 2005/2006 we hope to use similar partnership principals to introduce a music course led by Cultural Co-ordinator for Music and Inclusion, Lorne Cowieson.

Taking the Drama Out of Transition

Space Invaders now in its third successful year...

For the third year running our secondary schools were filled with creative activity - this year well over a hundred young people attended an average of 10 arts workshops each throughout the summer holidays.

Space Invaders, our annual transition project, ran in all seven secondary schools for the first time and worked with mainly targeted pupils, engaging them in activities as diverse as animation, dance, drumming, singing and circus skills. The pupils also presented promenade performances around their new schools, demonstrating new found skills, co-operating with new friends and demonstrating familiarity with their potentially intimidating new school.

Plans are already underway for 2006 when the team hopes to work more closely with Home Link Officers to make next year more successful and useful to pupils, families and schools themselves.

If you are interested in hosting creative transition projects over the summer holidays please contact the Cultural Co-ordinators on 0141 952 7292.



"Doing this project has made me feel better about moving school, more confident and excited about high school."

Space Invaders participant

Space Invaders 2005 was funded by West Dunbartonshire's Strategic Community Safety Partnership

Invasion and Evacuation

Bringing World War II to life - quite literally...

Operation Blackboard and Pixie Hats and Wet Duffels have been launched and if you are missing out this time you may be able to host these fascinating World War II projects at some point in the future.

In Operation Blackboard, Our Lady and St. Patrick's and St. Columba's High Schools will witness their entire first year transformed into an army boot camp for the day with the pupils experiencing conscription, PT, cartography and meeting at least two of the key historical figures in person. For one day only Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill will take centre stage in West Dunbartonshire.

In Pixie Hats and Wet Duffels St. Michael's, St. Mary's (Duntocher) and Bonhill Primary Schools will see their P7s evacuated to Balloch Castle for the day, experiencing life away from home and the daunting prospect of a 1940s classroom teacher.

Both of these projects will also allow a local survivor of the Clydebank Blitz to tell their story directly to the pupils and share their experiences, making this unusual history lesson even more meaningful.

The project uses actors to bring our cultural heritage to life and works closely with schools and teaching staff through a shared CPD opportunity to develop the learning experiences for the pupils.

If you would be interested in hosting either of these projects in the future then please contact Stephen Bullock on 0141 952 7292.

West Dunbartonshire's Their Past Our Future projects are delivered in partnership with the Council's Cultural Services and supported by the Big Lottery Fund.

Articulate

At the stage of dotting I's and crossing T's...

Strathclyde University's Quality in Education Unit has recently begun work with the five participating schools on evaluating this Future Learning and Teaching (FLaT) initiative. Thanks go especially to the Vale of Leven Academy staff who have been so helpful in this formal research period. The full and final report will be available from Dr Rebecca Soden in December 2006.

New Opportunities in Digital Music Technology

Digital music making has until now been a relatively untapped resource for musical achievement in the authority. It is hoped that with the introduction of two new posts - and post-holders - we will begin to make this new subject come alive in both primary and secondary schools.

A close partnership between the Quality Unit's Improvement Officer in ICT and the Arts and Education Links Programme will ensure that over the coming weeks and months we will be able to look at filling the gaps as well as well as looking at longer term sustainability in digital music making.

The Digital Music Motivator is that last piece of the Music Motivator jigsaw and Richard Creasey will soon be joining the Youth Music Initiative team for a year to explore how we can best introduce, support and maintain digital music impacts for schools. Richard will join Claire and Ross to help the authority meet the Scottish Executive's target for primary school access to specialist music opportunities.

In the secondary schools we are delighted to work in partnership with Clydebank High School to extend access to their new digital music studio through a new post to be filled by Simon Fullarton. Simon will join the Links Programme team to offer part time, out of school hours opportunities to young people interested in a career in the music industry, music enterprise projects and diversionary activity in and through The Pulse programme.

The new Cre8 studio post builds on positive relations with Strathclyde Police, West Dunbartonshire's Strategic Community Safety Partnership and the Clydebank High School Trust. It is anticipated that the new studio will open its doors in December.

This new opportunity builds upon previous good practice developed out of the Cultural Co-ordinator Lorne Cowieson's music and inclusion work with the Choices Programme, Social Work Services and Strathclyde Police.

Upbeat News from Your Rhythm Motivator

Our Rhythm Motivator, Ross Morgan is now beginning his first full term teaching across the primary schools of West Dunbartonshire.

Ross visited a few schools before the summer holidays where he thoroughly enjoyed testing out his plans for term time activity. He is now looking forward to visiting all 34 schools during the academic year and thanks schools for helping him schedule the year of visits so seamlessly.

In addition to his core programme, funded by the Scottish Arts Council's Youth Music Initiative, Ross will be working with our Dance Motivator at Kilpatrick School along with Sounds of Progress and Independance to provide a course of drumming workshops with pupils to create a piece of music for a documentary film.

Also Ross, our Dance Motivator (Rowan) and Cultural Co-ordinator (Lorne Cowieson) will be linking up young talents to produce more music for Vertical Hold, a film already in its editing stage.

Ross hopes to form an after-school percussion group soon. If your school wants to be part of this sensational percussion group to play solo, with the choir, with dancers or just want to learn a new skill then this might be the platform you have been looking for.

Ross and Rowan will also be running a project to rival STOMP! This project idea is in its infancy but they will be looking for drummers, dancers and young people who have got rhythm in every sense of the word.

The Link will keep you posted on all of these new concepts and collaborations or you can call Ross direct on 01389 761702.

Hitting High Notes with the Singing Motivator

West Dunbartonshire's Singing Motivator Claire Forsyth has now been in post for over a year and has worked with 1170 primary pupils in that time. The Singing Motivator has also worked with 47 class teachers at specially designed CPD sessions with the National Youth Choir of Scotland throughout the year.

The Singing Motivator has also timetabled every p5 class in the authority into this academic year to build on the skills they learned in 2004/05. We hope by the end of primary 5 that every child in West Dunbartonshire feels confident singing and has a good understanding of basic musicianship.

As well as the in-class sessions, the Singing Motivator has set up a West Dunbartonshire Junior Choir with primary 6 pupils. 27 children faithfully attended weekly rehearsals from January right through to the fantastic 'Sing' concert held in the Denny Civic Theatre in June. As well as this showcase performance, the choir were asked to perform at the Council's multi-cultural evening and the West Dunbartonshire Easter Concert, both held in Clydebank Town Hall.

The Choir will continue this academic year, along with a new 'singing club' to which current primary 6 pupils will be invited.

For further information on singing plans and the evolving singing strategy please contact Claire Forsyth on 01389 761702.

Music Motivators - Hitting the Right Note?

The Arts and Education Links Programme welcomes Dr Fiona Dean to the team temporarily. Fiona, of Fugitive Spaces, will be working with the Music Motivator team over the coming year to understand the impact of their work on primary school music making. The evaluation of the work will begin in earnest in the autumn with an interim report available by summer 2006.

Arts Motivators - Taking to the National Stage

The Arts Motivators, noted for their strange titles as much as for the positive feedback on their work in schools, have been making an impression on the national stage too.

While the whole team were presenting at the SETT conference, Rowan's break dancing boys were performing at the Create Space conference, both held in major venues in Glasgow.

Ship Sail

This new project will take an alternative look at shipbuilding over the years and down the Clyde, targeting excluded and at risk young people from Clydebank and the Vale of Leven. It is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and is offered in conjunction with Glasgow Museums' Education Service and South Lanarkshire Council's Cultural Co-ordinators.

Ship Sail will be led in West Dunbartonshire by Cultural Co-ordinator Jenny Hunter and involves working with the Denny Ship Model Experiment Tank, Clydebank Museum, the Tall Ship and Glasgow Museums' Clyde collection. The participating groups will work over a year, developing ideas and tours based on their own experiences of each museum site.

Each group of pupils will begin their specific project with trips to the museums and will be given a tour of the site and collection. Time will be spent recording images through photography, sketching and written work. The project will continue back at the school where pupils will begin working with specialist artists on a given brief.

Each of the projects will have a variety of strands, with emphasis on sustainability throughout the year. Ideas could include a book project with original prints and drawings; a painting project recreating sails for the Tall Ship; animation and comic books; projecting images onto backdrops or a costume project. We also hope to make links with Glasgow University who continue to use Denny's for testing.

For further information on Ship Sail, contact Jenny Hunter on 0141 952 7292.

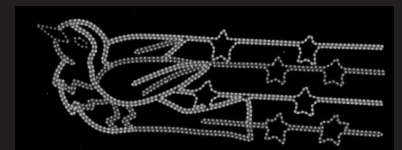
Winter Wonderland - Christmas Lights

This is an illuminating project funded in partnership by the Arts and Education Links Programme and Clydebank rebuilt.

During the first week of term a small group of Art and Design students from St. Columba's High School used their creative skills and ideas to develop and design Christmas lights for the Clyde Shopping Centre in Clydebank.

The designs have been given to Blachere UK - a French illuminations company - who will turn the designs into a reality, making Christmas lights from the young people's ideas. These lights will be on display in Clydebank over the Christmas period, and hopefully for many years to come.

For further information on the designs, site plans and switch on, please contact Eona Craig on 01389 738534.



Best Turkey Red



After a considerable research period, Best Turkey Red began on 12 September with CPD sessions between the four lead artists and the participating teachers in five Vale of Leven primary schools. The project explores the bleaching and dyeing heritage of the Vale and has teaching and learning implications for the Expressive Arts, Environmental Studies and the Science curriculum.

The Art and Design department in Our Lady and St Patrick's High School has become immersed in this fabulous topic too. S3 pupils are currently working on a specially commissioned design unit, while sixth years prepare to work alongside renowned design company Timorous Beasties.

The school projects, and a parallel community project, will develop a new creative perspective on a stimulating cultural past. An exhibition of key works created through the project is expected in summer 2006.

The first of the research and resource materials is now available on the Links Programme website for other schools in the area to begin to understand the potentials within this fascinating topic. www.creativelinks-wdc.org.uk

For further information on the Turkey Red research or projects, please contact Eona Craig on 01389 738534.



Clydebank rebuilt

The Arts and Education Links Programme continues its positive partnership with urban regeneration company Clydebank rebuilt.

In addition to Winter Wonderland, two new projects are currently being developed as well as the distribution of the specially commissioned CD ROM from The Lighthouse in Glasgow.

The first project links Scottish Designer of the Year Stuart Gilmour to a sign design project with senior pupils at St Andrew's High School. This mini enterprise project will result in a brand design for the new dance facility at the school, beginning with the production of the external signs and banners.

The second project will have considerable impact as it focuses on the renovation of the Titan Crane, a giant urban landmark in Clydebank. The architect's team will visit local schools to tell of the plans for the upgrade and future of this fabulous industrial heritage site on the Clyde.

Schools interested to hear more of any of these projects should contact Jenny Hunter on 0141 952 7292.

As Others See Us

The Council's Child Protection Committee has commissioned two groups of young people to investigate the main themes of the Scottish Executive's Children's Charter for the whole authority primary and secondary school audience.

The Committee's imaginative approach sees the local Youth Charter group and the Pupil Council from Ladyton Primary School grapple with the key concepts and how best to share them with other pupils in West Dunbartonshire schools.

Short films are the chosen medium and the young people involved will spend the autumn working with film-makers and animators on how the 'message' will be conveyed. The movies will be shown at school assemblies when complete in the spring.

For further information please contact Gerry Neal on 01389 734199.

Lactate

Using animation and digital imaging, Lactate is a science and arts project that explores the fascinating facts and amusing fictions around breastfeeding.

Following taster animation workshops with local health professionals at the Health Education Co-ordinator's day, a series of workshops with two schools in the authority is proposed for after the October week.

Lactate is an initiative that will be realised in partnership with health professionals, artists and teachers with funding from NHS Greater Glasgow.

Please contact Gillian Steel, Cultural Co-ordinator on 0141 952 7292 for more details.

Poles Apart?

Also in the offing during the autumn is Poles Apart? - a digital arts exchange between St Columba's High in Clydebank and a school in Wolomin near Warsaw in Poland.

A group of 20 young people from Poland and Scotland got together at the Aberfoyle Outdoor Centre in June to explore ideas of national identity and environment.

This foundation work - a short animated film - forms the support material for a bid to the British Council, the organisation the young Poles and Scots are approaching for financial support to continue their creative dialogue throughout the coming year.

For further information on the proposed exchange, contact Gillian Steel on 0141 952 7292.

STAND and Deliver

It has been a long time coming but we hope that the new dance facility at St Andrew's High School (The STAND) will be open for school and community use by spring 2006.

The funding partnership of the Council and the Big Lottery Fund has worked closely to realise this bold plan for healthy and active lifestyles in West Dunbartonshire. The foundations of the studio are now laid and the studio itself will be in place by February.

For further information on letting the new space, the planned programme or the evolving dance strategy, please contact Eona Craig on 01389 738534.

Autumn Dance Extravaganza

Rowan has been in post for almost a year now and to celebrate she has pulled together a whole range of dance activity in November that will impact on every secondary school.

Y Dance's Story of the Blues will take place in two schools, while a full day of different dance styles will be available to the other five secondary schools. In addition a CPD session for interested teachers will be led by Scottish Dance Theatre.

Finally the Dancing in the Street project will continue with the Youth Justice Services' Activ8 team.



For further information on these Big Lottery Fund supported events, contact Rowan on 0141 952 5603.

Boys Break the Mould

Boys have been taking a giant leap at St Columba's High School into the world of dance. Break dance sessions have been set up by the Dance Motivator, Rowan Gillespie and Health Development Officer, Louise Anusas to encourage young men to become more physically active in a healthy and creative environment.

Proving to be a key element in developing self-expression, confidence and health, the dance sessions were extended to an intensive week-long summer project for boys aged 12 - 15 at St Columba's. This culminated in an intimate performance to the S1 pupils joining the school at the end of the summer, and provided a great example of the type of activities available in the school as well as setting sights for new up-and-coming dancers.

However, the fun didn't stop there; the boys had even more to look forward to in September when Artistic Director of Y Dance, Andy Howitt made use of their talents in a specially devised work which was performed at the 'Create Space' conference in Glasgow. This high-energy venture certainly puts in its place that old saying "boys don't dance!"

Due to the commitment and energy of the boys, the project is now set to continue, thanks to support from the school and the Big Lottery Fund.

Dance Festivals

The Dance Festival, hosted by St Andrew's High School in March saw a troupe of seventy young people from seven neighbouring schools join forces in a celebration of creativity and dance talent.

The young people worked weekly with Dance Motivator, Rowan Gillespie and Active Schools Co-ordinator, Lindsay MacNeill to choreograph dynamic performances to present to an invited audience of family and friends. The projects had great credibility for those taking part with high energy and commitment demonstrated throughout the process and the performance itself.

Following this year's success, the Dance Festival is set to return next spring with more performing opportunities for interested 11-12 year olds. More workshops, more choreography and more partnerships ...

Commenting on the performances in 2005, Mary Docherty, Quality Manager said;

"The pupils' performances were really fabulous and it was great to see so many boys giving their all. The whole event was full of energy and bursting with creative ideas."

On the Trail ...

Kilpatrick School is preparing ground for a new purpose-built outdoor activity area, with specially crafted equipment to give young people the opportunity to exercise outdoors in their free time.

To celebrate this fantastic new space, Dance Motivator, Rowan Gillespie and the school have decided to collaborate and create a project called Trail that will embody not only the space but celebrate the movement of young people within it.

The decision to combine dance, music and film seemed like an inspiring way to illustrate these activities. Young people from the school will work with a professional dancer within the adventure area to create movement for the camera. Another group will work alongside Ross Morgan, Rhythm Motivator to produce a percussive score.

Not only will Trail enhance the outdoor space and bring fresh ways of looking at and using the equipment, it will also act as a great collaboration for young people, the staff and the artists.

Both the project and the new exercise area have been funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

Contact Dance Motivator, Rowan Gillespie on 0141 952 5603 for further details.



Skills for Work - Cultural and Creative Industries

As part of the Arts and Education Links Programme's response to the pilot scheme within Curriculum for Excellence plans we hope to develop the Life of an Artist pilot.

During spring 2006, a week long project for those schools or young people with an interest in culture and creativity will be on offer. The discipline, imagination and drive to work in the creative and cultural industries are immense. The creative process can be seen to have value as a personal asset as well as of benefit within a broad range of vocations. These principles were also made explicit in the Cultural Commission report in June 2005. Life of an Artist aims to prove the power of enterprise in the arts with this short intervention.

Pupils will start the week by pulling together a proposal for financing their creative plan. Throughout the week the group will work together to realise their work (s), securing funding and a space for exhibition or performance, create publicity material and open for public preview by the Friday.

Daunting, challenging, realistic?

For further information, contact Gillian Steel on 0141 952 7292.

Funding Credits

The Arts and Education Links Programme exists in West Dunbartonshire to support achievement and attainment in our schools. Creative learning opportunities are developed to stimulate creativity, ambition and learning for life. The Links Programme also supports the ethos of the Community Authority and Integrated Community Schools.

The Arts and Education Links Programme is grateful to all the funders listed for their support of projects and posts within the Programme.

Getting Our Finger on The Pulse

The Pulse is a brand new, multi-agency initiative established to create a programme of options that divert young people towards positive opportunities in the arts and sport.

The 7 month pilot project comprises 378 workshops in 11 venues over 28 Friday nights between September and March. Urban arts and sport forms are on offer to all 12 to 18 year olds across the authority as well as more traditional offerings such as free gym passes, football development sessions and aquadiscos.

The Pulse was launched at the end of August in the presence of Hugh Henry, Deputy Justice Minister, local MSPs and elected members.

Strathclyde Police and researchers, Blake Stevenson will consider The Pulse's impact in the community as well as on youth crime statistics for a full report in spring 2006.

For further information please visit the website on www.thepulse-wd.com

New Rush Comes to a Halt

The New Rush proved such a successful project formula that it has appeared in five different guises over the past two years. The mix of football and creative movie making for young people on the edges of engagement with school worked on many levels, including building confidence, teamwork as well as the creative and technical skills required to improve in both sport and art forms.

All styles and genre featured in the short films that epitomised the energy, imagination and vitality of the young participants. Strange titles, weirder characters and some educational and social lessons all found a natural place in the New Rush.

The creative output from all five projects is now gathered on one DVD and is available on request from Eona Craig on 01389 738534.

The New Rush was funded by Strathclyde Police, West Dunbartonshire's Strategic Community Safety Partnership and the Council itself.

Summer Holiday Programme 2005

The Arts and Education Links Programme once again played a pivotal role in bringing together programmers to realise the 'one banner' summer programme approach; providing families with a range of sport and arts activity throughout the holiday period.

Feedback is currently being collated on the impact of the third year of this partnership approach and a report will shortly be available for distribution. A full day planning event for 2006 will take place 9 November 2005. If you would like to join the programmers please call 01389 738534 to reserve a place.

For further information please visit www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/summerprogramme