



ARTS AWARD NEWSLETTER

December 2017

On Saturday 4th November, members of our Arts Award Theatre Company performed songs and dances from our forthcoming musical “ A Wartime Christmas Carol” at a late autumn fete at Derby Road Methodist Church, Woodford and again produced lots of positive reactions from people in attendance. It is always nice to be able to support local community events and give our students a chance to share songs and dances in preparation for our forthcoming productions.

On Thursday 9th November, I was delighted to be asked by the Creative Learning Department at the Barbican to give a presentation at a teacher’s event, highlighting our Arts Award programme at Chingford Academies Trust and talking about our experiences hosting our Chinese visitors. Again, it was pleasing to share our student success stories with another audience.

On Thursday 16th November, Chingford Academies Trust, in collaboration with William Morris Gallery hosted an Arts Award Local Area Networking Meeting for teachers and practitioners from Waltham Forest, Redbridge and Newham. CFS Arts Award students Hana Bhutta and Amelie Ayto, along with Jessica Ventel and Maariya Sohail from Arts Award at RFS, gave a fabulous set of performances and presentations about their Arts Award experiences. They were all a credit to Chingford Academies Trust.

On Friday 17th November, I was asked to give a presentation about our Arts Award work at the Creative Schools Annual Conference at Stratford Circus, which again attracted positive feedback.

On Wednesday 22nd November, we took a combined party of 30 Arts Award students from CFS and RFS to the Barbican as part of our Barbican Arts Box project, viewing a Basquiat exhibition, followed by a workshop on Zine printing. The students will work on this 5 month long project across a number of different arts genres, leading to a Summative event held at the Barbican Centre.

A busy November concluded with a very successful Arts Award evening at SCCL on Friday 24th November with an excellent attendance of students and parents. We are indebted to the volunteers at SCCL for their continued support in hosting these vital evenings. Our thanks go especially to Roy and Ann for giving up their time to open up for us.

The month was finally completed in term of Arts Award events with “Teach Fest” on Tuesday 28th November. This session was aimed at students who were being moderated on Friday 8th December. Our thanks go to the “guinea pigs” who volunteered to be “taught” on a variety of topics including WW1 & WW2.





We are currently working on the Barbican Art Box Project and December dawned with a workshop at Rushcroft Foundation School as further preparations for the visit of Rhiannon Adam, a world authority on the Polaroid camera.

The Art Box workshop on Wednesday 6th December at CFS was very well attended and centred on how Polaroid cameras and images can be moderated to produce fascinating artistic material. Rhiannon was a great inspiration to our students who are challenged to come up with some individual work based on Polaroid pictures to be undertaken over the Christmas holidays.

On Friday 8th December, 8 nervous students were moderated for their Arts Award Bronze, Silver and Gold qualifications. I am delighted to report that all were successful and thus after 25 moderations dating back to 2008, CFS has maintained its 100% pass rate! The external moderator was most positive in her praise for the quality of the portfolios produced by Jake Hawkins, Annabel Eshun - Bronze, Lewis Blee, Regan Clark, Josh Jeranyama, Hana Bhutta, Iona Berg – Silver and Rabiah Bhutta – Gold. Rabiah's Gold portfolio was particularly singled out for extra praise – "This was an excellent Gold portfolio. All sections were very clear and the depth of thought permeated through the entire portfolio. Excellent choice of debate – Brexit and the Arts!" We are particularly indebted to Jean Brockington for once again coming up trumps with printing photographs at short notice which enhanced the student portfolios.

The week beginning 11th December was especially significant for the Arts Award Musical Theatre Company as this was the week of our production of "A Wartime Christmas Carol".

Sadly, we had to cancel the Monday dress rehearsal due to the vagaries of the weather but our Site Services colleagues at Rushcroft Foundation School were able to re-schedule us for Wednesday 13th December. Our thanks to parents of our cast for making every effort to change arrangements so that students could attend on the Wednesday.

The production on Thursday 14th December went very well in front of an appreciative audience.

Saturday 16th December saw our 2nd performance in front of a very good audience of parents and friends. We were absolutely delighted with the performances of our young cast who pulled out all the stops to produce a really memorable performance, which was filmed for posterity. Please let Mr Hunter know if you would like to purchase a copy of the DVD of the production. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our post-show party at the British Legion Hall in Hall Lane, E4 on Monday 18th December.





We have now produced 16 shows with the Arts Award Theatre Company, and are totally convinced that the cast of "A Wartime Christmas Carol" was the most hardworking and supportive group of students who we have ever worked with. They always helped and encouraged each other and made the preparation for this production a real pleasure.

We would like to thank parents of our cast for providing the cast with costumes, props and all the encouragement over 9 weeks. Thanks also to those parents and family members who worked so hard organising refreshments, tickets, etc., all the tasks which make the producers life less stressful!

FUTURE NOTES

ART BOX PREPARATION

Please ensure you spend a little time during the Christmas holidays preparing for the workshops in the New Year.

We would like to have a meeting at CFS on 11th January 2018 after school in the Main Hall.

SATURDAY COLLEGE ARTS AWARD MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

The first meeting of the New Year is Saturday 13 January 2018

Please come along and sign up and find out what our exciting new production is!

Finally, thank you all for your support of Arts Award during 2017. We always consider Arts Award as a "family" project and we look forward to working with you again in 2018.

PS: Future Notes plus 1

Watch out for information about how to register for Barbican Junior Poets in 2018! (from February onwards).

