

The Three R's: reading, writing and rhythm.

This spring term has been all about reading, creative writing and music, starting with a teacher-training workshop focussed on literacy. The CPD was led by award-winning author Sita Brahmachari from Pop-up Festivals, and it's fair to say, she had us all transfixed with her patchwork storytelling and methods to engage reluctant readers. The library hosted the event and shared the secrets of their basement (a host of brilliant resources) as well as giving examples of the ways in which schools can use them to support learning. The afternoon was rounded up by the Time and Tide museum learning team introducing us to the horrors of the Tolhouse Gaol and how these can be used to inspire creative writing.



From left to right: Sita Brahmachari's beautiful patchwork quilt; exploring the darkest stories of the Tolhouse Gaol; making the most of extraordinary resources at the library.

The responses from those attending the workshop were incredibly positive, with 100% of attendees recommending it to colleagues:

'There was so much packed into the session. I felt totally engaged the whole way through'

'Sita was amazing – she created a really immersive session'.

Since the literacy workshop teaching staff who attended have fed back with examples of how they have used the learning to influence fabulous projects in their own educational settings and Sita will be sharing these stories at a major conference later this year.



Creative writing was one of a variety of activities that featured in the 'Arts Award in a Day' event hosted by the Time and Tide museum. Pupils from St Mary St Peter Catholic primary were swept up in a creative storm of drawing, poetry, music, drama and clay work with a shared theme of 'the sea'.

It all began when Clare Parker, Education Officer at Time and Tide museum and I attended a staff meeting at St Mary St Peter primary to see how Enjoy could help the school deliver a more creative curriculum. There were numerous outcomes from this meeting, including a better understanding by staff of how the museum could support learning as well as the seed of an idea: an 'Arts Award in a Day' event, that would enable all the children to achieve a Discover Arts Award.

Top: pupils from St Mary St Peter Catholic Primary talk about what sound they might hear in the Dutch Fair painting; bottom left, sketching to stormy seas results in some great descriptive words; bottom right, preparing the clay for printing with sea shells.

And so it was that over 3 days 180 children joined in with using museum objects and paintings to stimulate poetry, music and drama and making beautiful clay work with shell imprints. There was even time at the end of the day to come together and share what new art forms everyone had found out about, interview the artists and report on their favourite activity.

Over 80% of teaching staff rated the session as 'excellent' and all reported that they would recommend the event. When asked why this was the response:

"[The] expertise of the facilitators was excellent both in how children learn and in their own field"

"Really well organised event that was based around our topic of the sea. Thank you!"

The musical accompaniment of the term was provided by St Mary St Peter Catholic Primary and St George's Primary, both of whom had workshops delivered by Into Opera. These primaries are partnered with Into Opera as part of the **Culture Schools** programme and are two of four schools working on an exciting project that will see *Gobolino the Witches Cat*, a well-loved children's book, transformed into a family-friendly opera.



St George's primary school pupils cast a spell in the Gobolino composing workshop run by Into Opera.

These workshops focused on composing and characters: the children were given scenes from the book and had to compose pieces of music to bring them alive; cue extraordinary scenes with artistic director, Genevieve Raghu, conducting between stormy and calm seas as well as witches' spells.

As with all the **Making Waves Together** projects, this one has a strong element of teacher-training that has been very well-received:

'As we have many new staff within the school this was a very successful CPD for providing Drama strategies to teachers unfamiliar with techniques, and, for support staff who can now be confident to use the strategies in small group tasks planned by the teacher.'

Sharron Mitchell, Assistant Head Teacher at St George's Primary school.

With next term set to be even busier including youth consultation workshops for NessFest, hosting a storytelling tent at First Light festival, a Dance celebration and two CPD workshops, we're looking forward to a bit of R&R over the holidays, not to mention a chocolate bunny or two. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to such a fun and creative term, we wish you all a Happy Easter.

By Phoebe Wingate

If you would like to know more about any of these projects or how your school could become a *Culture School* please contact Phoebe Wingate on phoebe.wingate@norfolk.gov.uk. Please note this programme is for schools in the borough of Great Yarmouth.

*These programmes are part of the **Making Waves Together** project, funded by Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the Great Place Scheme, helping to create more opportunities for children and young people to participate in high quality arts and cultural activity in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.*

Dates for the diary: Summer term

- **Easter Holidays:** Acting & musical theatre workshops for 8-16 yr. olds at St George's Theatre over the Easter holidays – see attached flyer for details.
- **Medieval Medicine**, the new exhibition at Time and Tide museum has now opened (teacher-led visits are free!) and the new workshop, suitable for upper KS2 and KS3, will start after the Easter holidays. For further details contact Clare Parker: clare.parker@norfolk.gov.uk.
- **Tuesday 30th April in Lowestoft from 3:30-5pm:** Lowestoft Maritime museum will launch their updated schools resource, Ben's Quest, at a twilight **CPD** at the museum. Poetry People will also be launching their brand new linked activity for schools. Teaching staff from both Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth are welcome, places are free but please book by contacting Phoebe Wingate on phoebe.wingate@norfolk.gov.uk.
- **Monday 10th June in Great Yarmouth from 1-5pm:** Learn how to incorporate movement in your teaching with this fab **CPD** led by fantastic tutors from DanceEast. Teaching staff from both Lowestoft & Yarmouth are invited to attend this free CPD. For further information or to book your place contact Phoebe Wingate on phoebe.wingate@norfolk.gov.uk.
- **June 8th – June 16th:** Great Yarmouth hosts the arts festival and carnival. Workshops for Great Yarmouth schools are available – to get involved in either workshops or the carnival itself please contact Pat Howe on 07757 014154 or pathowe394@btinternet.com.
- **Sat 22nd & Sunday 23rd in Lowestoft:** Join in **First Light**, the very first 24-hour festival with lots of creative workshops and activities to get involved in. For further information contact Phoebe Wingate on phoebe.wingate@norfolk.gov.uk.
- **Monday 24th June in Great Yarmouth:** St George's Theatre will host their very first Dance Celebration event for Great Yarmouth schools. We are receiving enquiries from Great Yarmouth schools only. For further information contact Phoebe Wingate on phoebe.wingate@norfolk.gov.uk.
- **Wed 3rd, Fri 6th & Sat 7th July in Great Yarmouth:** Free creative workshops at Skippings Gallery as part of the Coasting? exhibition. For details & booking contact Helen Wells on heavenwells@mac.com or 07803608274.