

A Celebration of the Creative Arts and working with Arcade

Hello everyone, I am a full-time teacher at Springhead special school in Scarborough North Yorkshire. I was named Art Coordinator back in 2021. Luckily for me this was around the time I first met Sophie from ARCADE and Tom from Kit Theatre. The time has passed by so very quickly.

I believe Creative arts is a vital channel through which our pupils can learn and express themselves. Over the years I have really valued the creative input that ARCADE, Kit theatre and other independent creatives have been able to offer us, including Matthew the photographer who managed to capture the essence and heart of our pupils through his photography.

Creative Arts is such an important part of the SEN curriculum and it travels through all subject areas. For example, in Literacy; Dance, theatre, Art, Music, Crafts, are all channels for non-verbal language for creating and learning. At the same time, they allow the development of new language through body language, gesture, signing and symbolic language.

Creative Arts is wonderful for developing our pupils' social relationships including among gender and age groups working together collaboratively. Through the Arts our pupils have a voice sharing their thoughts, ideas, emotions, values, dreams and wishes through their creative works.

Through Drama, role play, continuous provision and taking the learning into new environments help pupils develop their core strength, stamina and balance. It allows them to participate in healthy lifestyle activities which are essential for the body, mind and soul.

Through Math's, Creative Arts consists of rhythms, shapes, patterns linking to mathematical concepts such as learning the names of colours and positional language. Simply put Math can be taught the Creative arts in a multitude of ways and help our pupils to understand abstract concepts in a joyful way.

Creative experiences bring to life, events from the past and the Future and allows exploration to learn about diverse cultural ways of life in a very sensory and physical way. I cannot express how many moments of Joy and Wonder you have brought to both our pupils and staff team.

Over the past few years, I have learnt so many new skills from the excellent practitioners who have made it possible for our pupils to access and engage in a variety of new exciting events. I have watched pupils shine in their own way celebrating their uniqueness. I have watched pupils use all their efforts to communicate through a variety of ways which can take so much energy because they are excited and wowed by what they are experiencing.

Our pupils are being seen and heard. There have been so many special moments. Pupils own work being showcased in museums and galleries. Their poetry being performed on stages by themselves and included in a book. Being fully active participants in interactive fully immersive storytelling and musical opportunities.

More importantly I have witnessed pure joyful moments of wonder, excitement, pride and feeling heard and included. I recently read that Culture secretary Lisa Nandy said "Arts and Music bring people together and are enjoyed by communities across the country. We want every child and young person to have equal opportunities to access a high-quality Arts and Music education, to ensure creativity can be explored by all and not just a privileged few"

I am pleased to say that due to the hard work of Arcade and their excellent collaboration with other excellent practitioners such as Kit theatre and working alongside the highly skilled Springhead staff team our pupils are not being forgotten when it comes to having access to amazing opportunities and interactive experiences