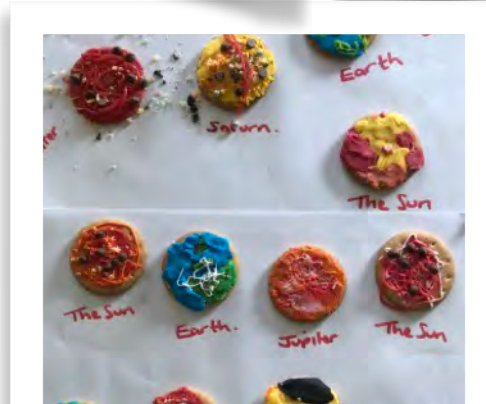
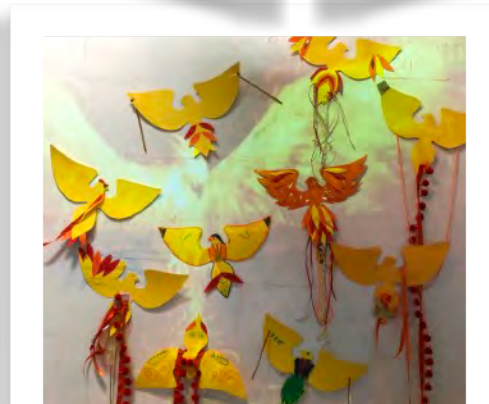
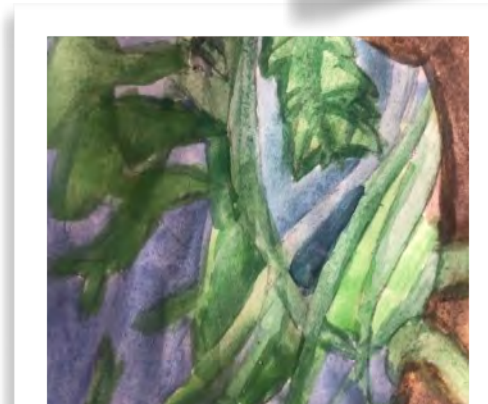
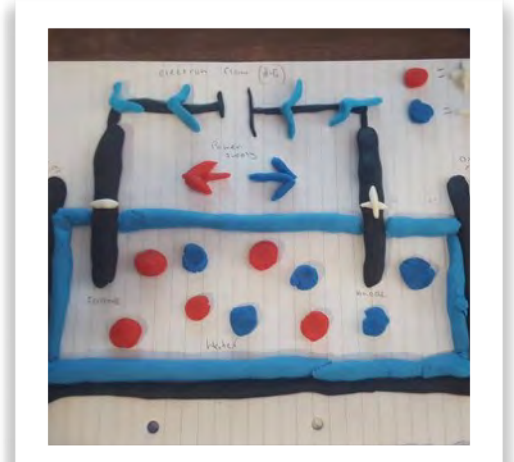
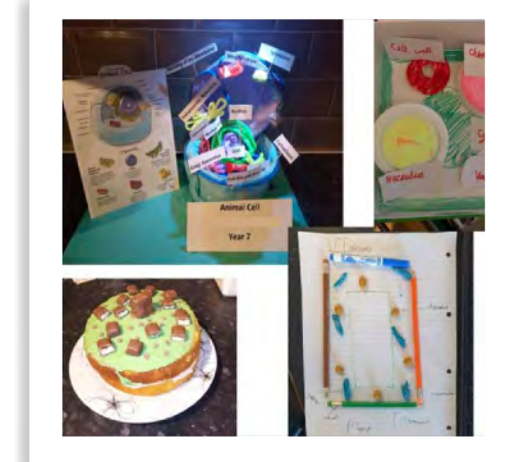


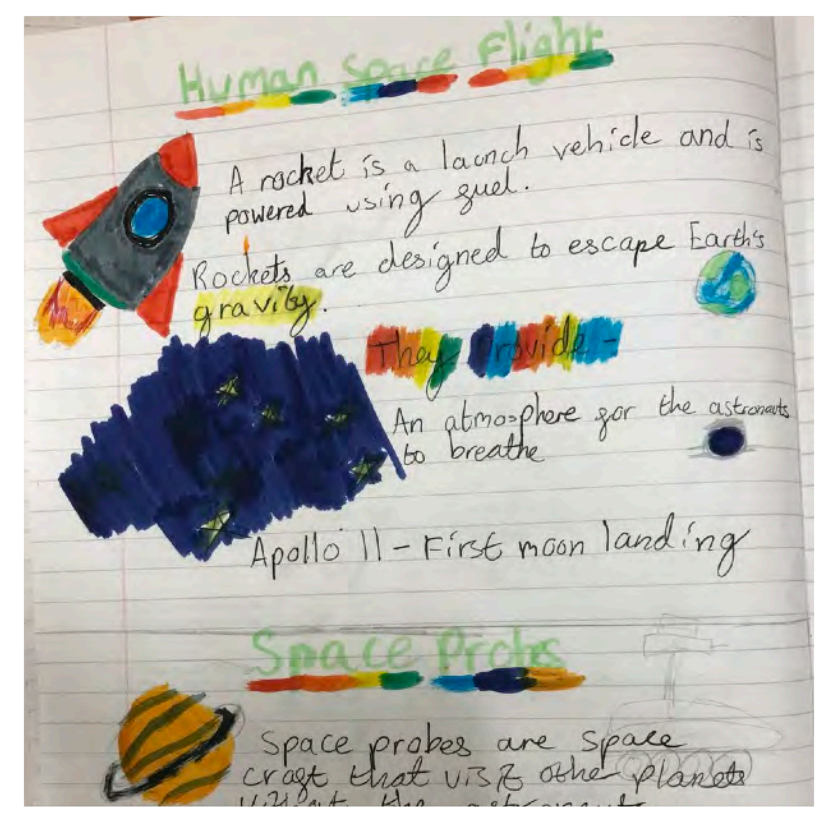
# Cultural Leadership in Education 2020-21

A REFLECTIVE JOURNEY



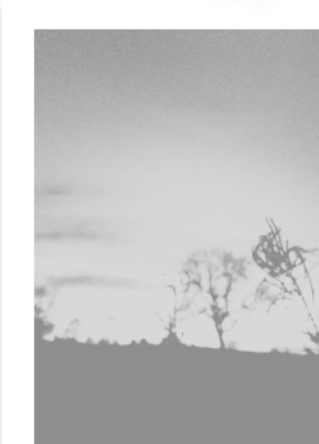
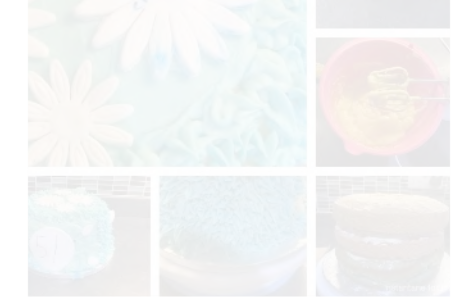
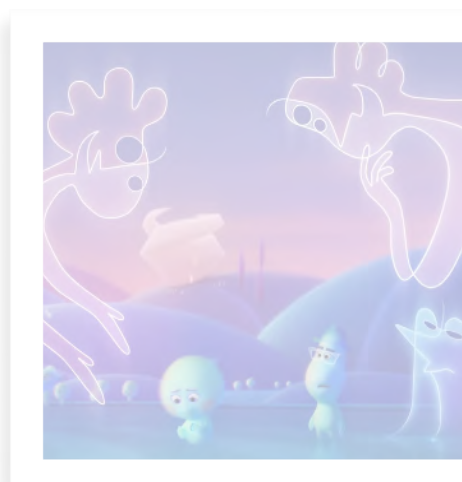
our focus...

In Winter 2020, we began our Gold Arts Mark *journey* with the support of 'The Forge' and 'Culture Bridge North East'. Prior to this, there were already a great deal of creative opportunities across the academy's curriculum. In the vast majority of cases, these occurred in isolation, with only the leaders and participants being aware of their occurrence.

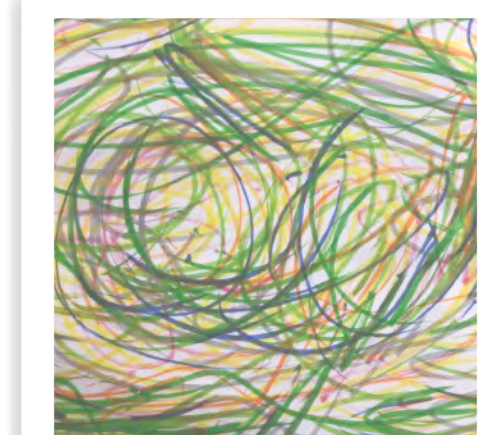
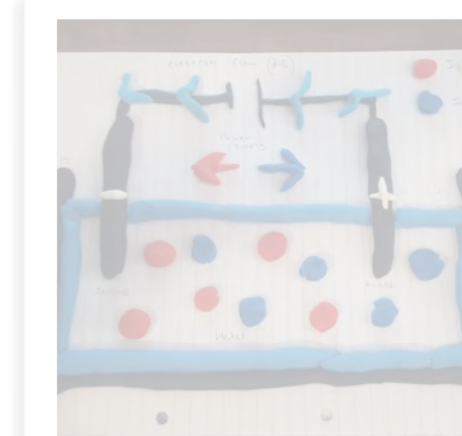
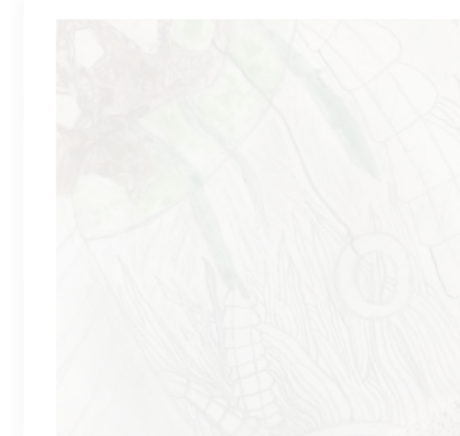
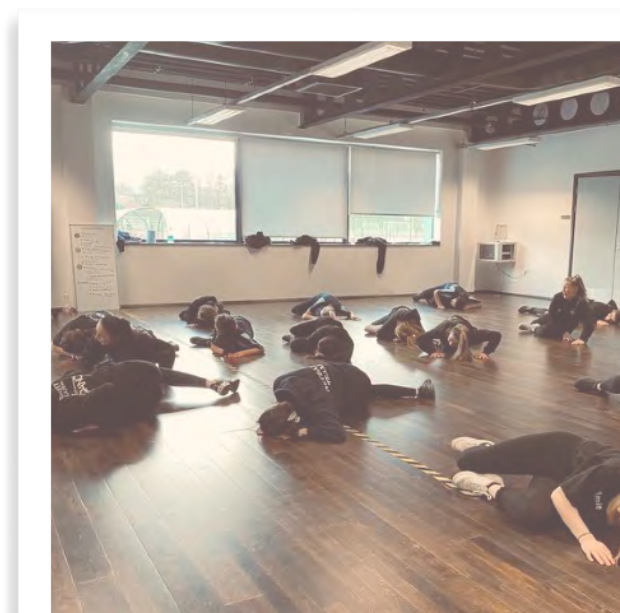


With *creativity* at our core, we felt that we were missing an opportunity to *celebrate* the creative journeys of the staff and students and share these and the outcomes with our wider community. The Arts Mark status provided us with the *opportunity* to consolidate and develop our creative provision across the whole school, while giving us a tangible goal to strive towards.

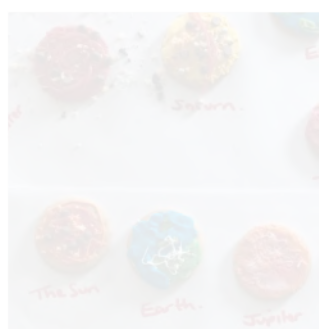
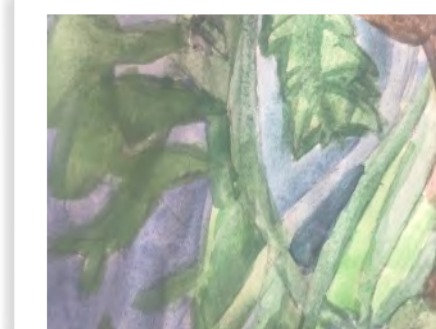
By *enriching* our curricular journeys with cultural capital, creativity and the arts, students would be able to gain a first-hand experience of the arts and their *value* in the wider world, giving them insight into further study and careers, as well as emboldening them to seek out further enrichment opportunities. Becoming *'arts-rich'* would enhance the dialogue between subjects and further help students to see, experience and value these links.



'We want more students to experience the arts and for these experiences to be the catalyst in creating *open-minded, inventive and daring* creatives for our cultural future.'



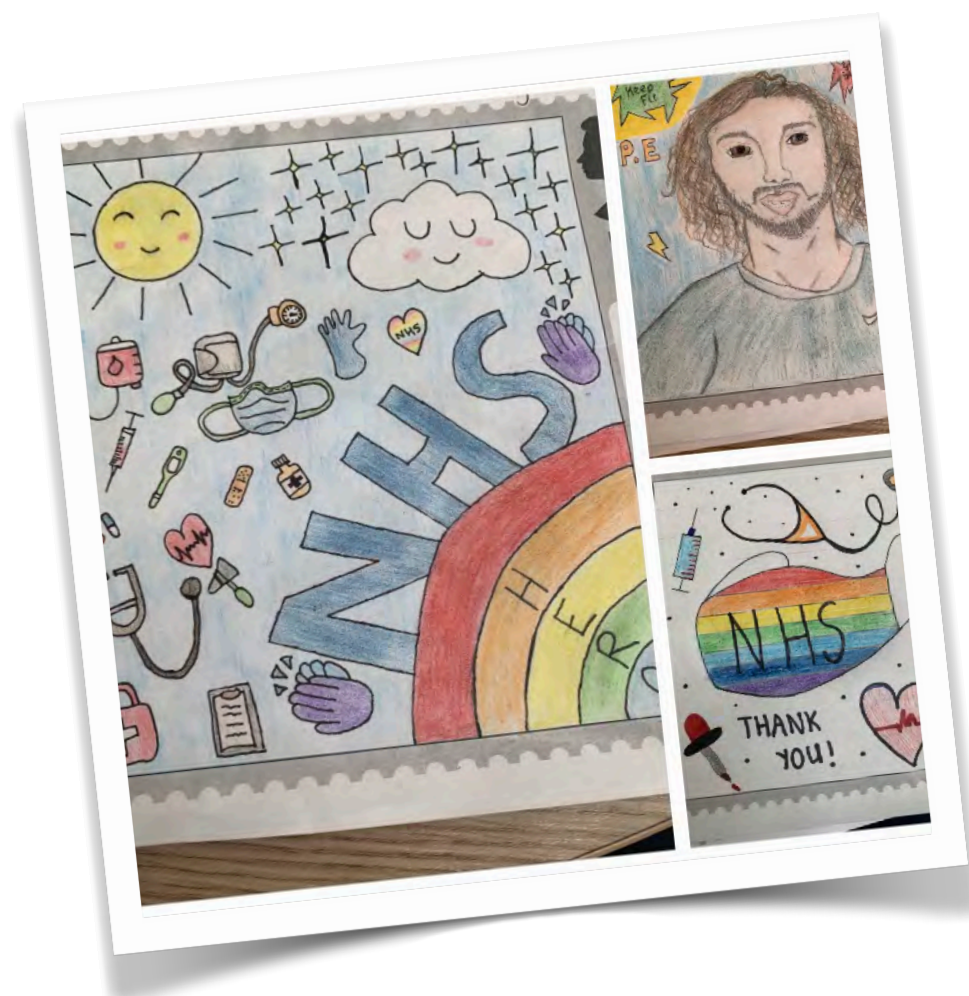
We're working towards Artsmark Awarded by Arts Council England



# our targets...

*Arts Across the Curriculum Celebration* - sharing the wonderful practices with our school community, as well as our wider community through galleries, libraries, theatres, parks and other shared spaces, increasing our presence and the value of our young people's potential and their contributions to society.

*Arts Award* - offering these qualifications as part of our extra-curricular programme to further develop our creative individuals.



*Arts Ambassadors* - creating a council of like-minded young creatives, who will champion the arts for their peers, providing exciting and meaningful learning experiences and create additional opportunities for our young people to grow their voices.



*Student Media* - set up a school radio station ran by students where they can produce their own shows and develop broadcasting and journalism skills, which would build upon the 'Student Views' wrap around and student newspaper.



*'Overall, our understanding as arts specialists is the immeasurable value of the arts and the positive impact it has on an individual. Our lives are built on experiences and it is our responsibility as educators and practitioners to show our students and young people their creative potential and their value. We strive for the long-term sustainability of the arts.'*

This year has created opportunities to innovate, reimagine and create! We have had to rethink our journey and take a different and somewhat untrodden path. Taking learning out of the classroom and onto digital platforms gave us a new medium in which to work and allowed us to make progress towards our Arts Mark milestones.

*our journey...*

Working with some of our already established contacts within the arts sector, students have participated in live-streamed workshops through Dance City and worked with Karl Nova through Seven Stories. In addition to this, we successfully set up and piloted our Arts Ambassador group throughout lockdown, giving a variety of independent projects for students to access as part of their creative wellbeing.

Going online with learning has in turn meant that teaching staff have had to rethink their curriculum for a digital world and therefore work more visually to support learning. One of the many positive outcomes of this has meant that there was a clear way to share our creativity amongst stakeholders both internally and externally through social media. Although in its infancy, there has been positive support thus far and the use of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram has allowed us to connect with other practitioners, businesses, schools and industries to increase opportunities.

*barriers and challenges...*

Reestablishing routines and day-to-day practices in the classroom has meant survival. Redirecting our energies into bubbled learning, working without specialist materials and resources and being subject to the ever-changing world we live in has been exhausting.

Rediscovering our passion and reigniting our motivation hasn't been easy. As restrictions have eased, we've found ourselves starting from scratch where we once had thriving and oversubscribed projects and clubs.

For the arts subjects, the chance to do what we do best has been balm for the soul. For others, integrating creativity and creative thinking is a next step - redefining our common purpose will take time, patience, collaboration and support.

The arts have created wellness, stability and a mutual voice for people during times of unease. This has given us hope and continues to connect us through a common universal experience, and what could be a more powerful stimulus for creativity?

#LETS  
CREATE



# Impact of the Cultural Leadership Programme

The Cultural Leadership Programme has changed my perspective on what it is to lead and has helped me to understand how my own skills as a middle leader can be refocused and applied at a whole-school level.

*'The great cultural leader is a caretaker of the absurd and the 'marginalised', finding the value in the disturbances and events that don't match 'the plan'.*

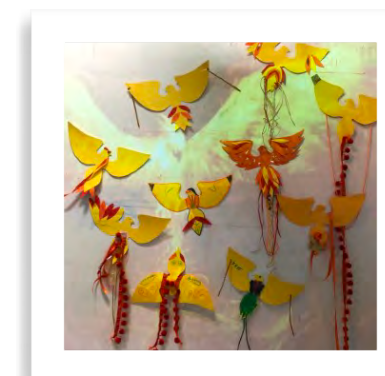
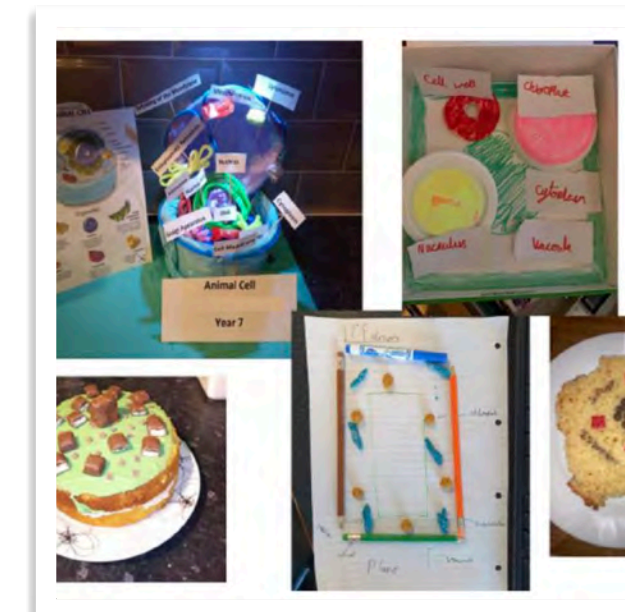
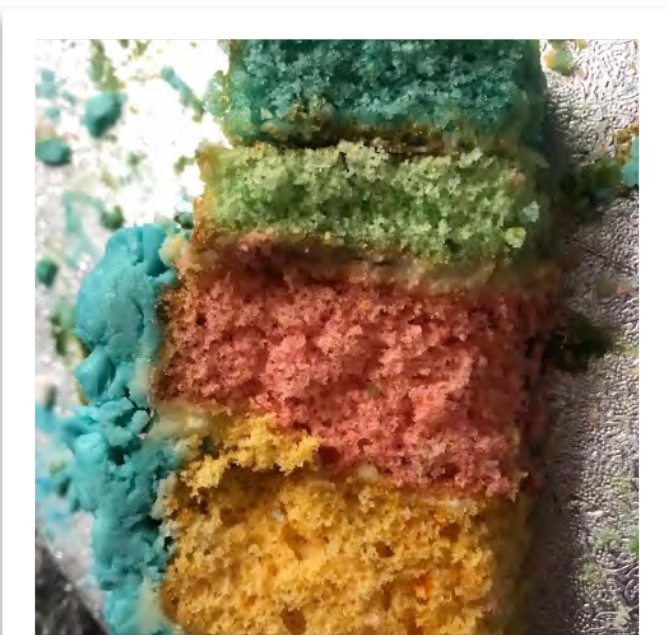
P. McDermott



This quote from 'Developing leadership: the challenge for the cultural sector' really resonated with me. In the education sector, the arts and creativity are so often discounted and deemed 'soft' by comparison to other subjects or skills, where we only value something that can be measured or quantified. It also made me consider what myself and others value - experiences, processes or outcomes and how this impacted upon an individual's learning. All-in-all, it has reinforced how invaluable creativity is and how its value is increased when it is embodied.

*'When we talk about the value of arts and culture to society, we always start with its intrinsic value: how arts and culture can illuminate our inner lives and enrich our emotional world. This is what we cherish.'*

Arts Council England



It was empowering to connect with leaders and practitioners, share perspectives and ambitions, creating an 'idee fixe' of culture and creativity in education. Sharing a creative vision for the school with staff has been a really rewarding experience. Bringing colleagues together to share ideas for our Arts Mark journey has given the team energy, as well as a sense of direction. The notion of CONNECT - COLLABORATE - MULTIPLY (M. Robinson) ensured that individuals utilised and contributed through their own specialisms, as well as taking a shared interest and responsibility in our mutual goal.

*'...we envisage a country transformed by its culture and at the same time constantly transforming it: a truly creative nation in which every one of us can play a part.'*

'Let's Create' Strategy 2020-2030

