

## Appendix 1

### **Easter & May Half Term Programme with the virtual school, Looked After Children Education Team (LACET).**

**7 April – 11 April 2014**

#### Fashion & Textiles Project with the Royal College of Art

14 young people participated in this project accompanied by 3 members of the team. Ages ranged from 11 – 18 years. Out of these there were 4 who were first time attenders of activities organised by the virtual school, Looked After Children Team (LACET). Several of the young people came from out of borough and one came up from Suffolk to take part in the visit to Burberry and the V&A museum.

On the first day we worked in the printmaking department at the Royal College of Art. The morning workshop involved working with two undergraduates who were studying textile design. We worked as a group, exploring ways of creating design and pattern, then using stencils and finally working on silk screen printing techniques. The final result was producing a bag with a printed design. This was an amazing and unique opportunity for the group to work along-side degree students and professionals in a prestigious environment. The wider issues of working within the design industry were discussed and pathways to becoming a designer.

On the next day – Tuesday – we travelled up to the Victoria and Albert museum where the group explored the world of fashion photography. Sketches were made and a group discussion took place on elements of fashion photography. Later we visited the collection of fashion in the V&A.

The afternoon was spent at the headquarters of the famous fashion / design house of Burberry, situated in Westminster. We were given lunch and introduced to members of staff who were to take us around and explained the many processes which take place in fashion production. The group engaged with designers and saw how samples were produced, looked at techniques used for printing fabrics, met with a specialist in the tailoring department and finally took part in their own “photo shoot”. Here the group were able to be photographed with the bags, which they had produced at the RCA. This event gave them an insight into the world of fashion photography and modelling. The staff were so kind and accommodating and it seems that this was the first time that Burberry’s have open their doors to an outside group.

On Thursday we continued with our project but this time, working at Horizons. Two designers came to deliver the workshop on making a garment in one session. Firstly we listened to Marie, a textile designer and illustrator, as she showed some of her work and where she finds inspiration. Then working with a range of fabrics and techniques, including sewing, stitching and applique, the group all produced a tee shirt/ tunic with their own unique design. These were all photographed by a photographer from the RCA and we will use these in an exhibition at Horizons.

This has been an extremely positive and successful collaboration with the RCA, producing some amazing learning opportunities for our young people. Much of the work has linked in

with the school curriculum and enabled students to have a greater understanding of their textiles work. The final part of this project took place in the May half term, where we were able to see the final degree fashion show at the RCA.

#### Matilda Trip on 9 April 2014.

A group of 10 young people were able to attend this theatre trip. We normally include a trip to see a play during the Easter break and this time we continued the theme of Roald Dahl, from the previous half term. Tickets were in demand and were allocated to those who had taken part in earlier workshops. We did not include the year 11s for this trip, as most were busy with their studies. In this group, we included a boy living in Kent, who was able to meet with the group in London.

The ages ranged from 11-16 years. One boy is a new comer to our holiday activities and has recently started to engage with us for Study support on Wednesdays.

It was a wonderful production and certainly kept the group fully engaged!

Overall figures of attendance during the week for the project and theatre trip – 17 young people took part during the week.

### **May Half Term Programme**

#### **28 May – 31 May 2014**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Study Support

Education support was on offer for year 11s, almost coming to the end of their GCSE exams, but for whom there were still some hefty maths and an English language paper to complete. Specialist maths tuition was on offer as well as Claire Hyde, KS 4 teacher on hand to offer expert English guidance and support.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Fashion and Textile Project

This was the final day of the Fashion and Textile themed project from Easter. A group of 12 young people attended the Fashion Graduates, at the Royal College of Art, final show. This was a very prestigious event and tickets were highly sought after. We were in the queue by 11.00 am in order to obtain some good front row seats. This was a unique opportunity to see top-grade fashion design and ideas on show before they hit the high streets! Very exciting! Afterwards we spent some time in Hyde Park eating our picnic and seeing some of London life.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Transition Day

This day was for children in year 6 who were moving on to high school in September. Sally Obado KS1&2 teacher and Royanne Johnson, Lead Mentor brought a group who had earlier that morning taken part in a consultation exercise with social workers at Perceval house, to Horizons. Sue Tarry, KS3 teacher and the "Gardening ladies" Linda and Ela had set up the garden ready for a planting exercise to reflect on the transition theme. Other young people had been invited to help with this as well as talk about their own high school experiences. One of our year 11 students, Sandra, spent an hour with the transition group and answered

their questions re high school. This went really well and some year 7s were on hand to add to the discussion. Some really good advice was given on a range of topics.

We had lunch together, the gardening project continued with strawberry plants being decorated, potted and taken home to nurture. Some of the children played table tennis and some were eager to display their skills in gymnastics! We were treated to some lovely singing by two of the girls, as the day drew to an end.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Opera at Holland Park

Trip to the Opera! This was a lovely occasion when we were able to take advantage of free tickets to see a dress rehearsal at Opera Holland Park. The opera was, Puccini's "The Girl from the Golden West". Although this opera is over 3 hours long, it held everyone's attention by the action, which was set in mid- west America and involved lots of action and it's heroine, Minnie, who leaps on stage firing a gun!

Sian Hender Early Years teacher and Sally Obado met with a group of foster carers and families, with 4 of our Looked After Children. All the 12 tickets were used, which is always a concern and we sat in the second row from the front, in seats that would normally cost from £85 and up. We had a good view of the stage and orchestra. The setting was fantastic, open air in Holland Park, with overhead cover, with the scents of the gardens wafting through and the occasional sound of a peacock joining in! It was lovely to share this experience, not only with the children, but with their foster carers. Hopefully there will be more opportunities for this during the summer!

Report by Sue Tarry & Sally Obado, June 2014