

STEVENAGE CREATIVE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

05 JUNE 2025



1. Creative Opener

Drumming meets Zumba - Drumba is the latest craze at Lonsdale. It combines rhythm, music and physical exercise as well as dance, and it is so much fun!

Hearing about Drumba at the last Stevenage Creative Network meeting, we wanted to experience this for ourselves! If you want to find out more: <https://www.drumba.co.uk/>

Lonsdale invested some of their PE Premium money to buy the kits and training.

This was SUCH FUN! We all had a great time and discovered that most of us were still working on Early Years moves and skills! A special shout out to Pauline who arrived early and did almost a full hour workout!





2. Cultural Forum News

Please follow this link to view the Cultural Forum newsletter [Cultural Forum - May 2025](#)

Read about:

- Stevenage at 80
- University of Hertfordshire Heritage Hub – funding opportunities
- Stevenage Festival [Stevenage festival home page](#)



- Junction 7 Creatives [Home-Junction 7 Creatives C.I.C.](#)



- Underpass Art – including news of the artist commissioned to paint the wingwalls of the 'Schools Underpass' for which many schools submitted artwork.
- Brochure – What's on in the town centre [23549-stevenage-events-activities-a6-brochure-1_compressed.pdf](#)



- Community flyers – events in Stevenage [Community Flyers](#)
- What's on – Stevenage Museum flyer [What's On - Stevenage Museum - May to August 2025](#)

Exhibitions

Preacher, Punisher and Dredd
5 April – 30 August 2025
Preacher, Punisher and Dredd: the work of British comic book legend Steve Dillon.

In the Foyer
The HERDS:
A murmuration of starlings
Follow the starlings from the front window to the foyer as we take part in the exciting international art and climate project, THE HERDS. Scan the QR code to find out more.

Art Fund
The HERDS

With funding from The Arts Fund, we've worked with three primary schools, two visual artists, a dancer artist and a drone photographer to create puppets and used them (and the children who made them) to create a stunning murmuration of starlings.

Want to get involved?
Saturday 7 June, 1-3.30pm
Join a local artist to create a work of art inspired by the beauty of nature: a simple starting puppet. Can't make Saturday? Don't worry we will be at Stevenage day too!

VE Day
Saturday 17 May, 11am-3pm
Launching our Life on the Home Front Museum trail and a burning design competition from Kids in Museums alongside our own mystery object challenge. The trail runs until 31 May.

Walks
The evolution of Stevenage High Street
Wednesday 18 June

Drinking in the High Street
Wednesday 25 June
Both walks start at 7pm. Meet local historian Hugh Madgin at the bus stop outside the Old White Lion/Kilbury Tree.
£7.50 (£6 concessions). Booking essential

Model Railway Day
Saturday 9 August, 11am-4pm
Lots of layouts from local clubs!

For adults

Feel good Fridays
Museum meet up
Meet new people, have a cuppa and a chat or play a game or two.
23 May
27 June
25 July
10.30-11.30am
FREE

Make it!
Come along, get creative and meet others who enjoy the fun and benefits of sewing, knitting and crochet. Just bring sandwiches and whatever you are working on or materials to start from scratch. Tea and Coffee provided.
May 2, 16 & 23
June 6, 20 & 27
July 4, 18 & 25
12noon to 2pm
FREE

Lunch and listen
Enjoy a lunchtime talk. Subjects are varied but we hope you will always learn something new and interesting! Numbers are limited so please book in advance. Tea and coffee provided just bring your own sandwiches.
Friday 9 May
Knebworth on Film
Find out about the amazing variety of films, TV series and music videos that have been filmed here. Find out more about the amazing variety of films, TV series and music videos that have been filmed there.
Friday 13 June
Rev. Henry Small and the missing £20,000
A scandalous tale from St Albans in the 1830s and its inspiring resolution by local historian Jon Meen.
Friday 11 July
King Arthur: man or myth?
Arthurian legends have been popular since the twelfth century, but is there any historical reality underlying them?
1:00pm – 2:50pm
£4 (£3.50 concessions).

Saturday film and afternoon tea
24 May
28 June
26 July
30 August
12.30pm. Suitable for over 14s.
Booking essential
£9 per person.

For families

Pop up Play!
The Lecture Room will be open as well as the existing play spaces around the museum with lots of opportunities for play of all kinds.
Open most Fridays 10-11.30am and Saturdays 10am-12noon plus 1 Thursday a month, 12.30-3pm. Check the website for dates and times.
Thursdays: 8 May, 5 June, 3 July
Free but donations very welcome, tap on your way out.

Family Saturdays
11am-12noon
10 May
The Vikings are coming! Make your own model longboat. Paper cup daisies
14 June
12 July
2 August
Free

Holiday activities
May half term is sci-fi week
26 May 2025 – 30 May 2025
Blast off for a week of fun activities that are out of this world!
28 May Robot Puppets
29 May Space Helmets
30 May Clay-lens
Wednesday to Friday 11am-12pm and 1.30-2.30pm.
£4 (£3 concessions)

Summer Holidays
Join us for four weeks of the summer holidays from 6-29 August. Below are our themes – check out the website, social media or ArtTickets for more information.
Gorgeous Georgians • Folklore week
STEM week • Comic book week

What's On at Stevenage Museum
May - August 2025

Large print versions of this What's On are available, just ask! If you no longer wish to receive this what's on, please get in touch and we'll take your name off the list.

Visiting us
Stevenage Museum, St George's Way, SG1 1XX

Contact us and information
Tel: 01438 218881
Email: museum@stevenage.gov.uk
Visit www.stevenage.gov.uk/stevenage-museum
Art tickets book here: stevenage-museum.arttickets.org.uk/

Opening hours:
Wednesday to Friday 10am to 4.30pm,
Saturday 10am to 5pm

Admission to the museum is FREE

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

➤ Art Tickets – events at Stevenage Museum [Stevenage Museum - Art Tickets](https://www.stevenage-museum.arttickets.org.uk/)

3. News from John Prebble, Co-Director at Junction 7 Creatives

Celebrate!!

An evening celebrating talent & diversity in Stevenage

TICKET OFFER: £11.50 with discount code CELEBRATE25

Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage
26 June 2025, 7pm
Book tickets at: www.everyonetheatres.com
or call 01438 363 200

Stevenage Festival

Stevenage Festival show that Junction 7 are particularly involved with and promoting are Yes We Can! on 20th June and [Celebrate!!](#) on 26th June. Any help spreading the word for these and the Festival as a whole much appreciated. Please note: there is a booking offer for Celebrate - tickets £11.50 (instead of £15) with the code **CELEBRATE25**. And under 12s are £10.

Murals, Murals, Murals!!



A few pictures of local artist (also HLTA at Woolenwick Infants) Caitlyn Bridgman at work on the mural at the Hyde on the link: [The Hyde Mural](#) · Jan 19 – May 28 📷

The mural incorporates designs by Marriotts students. We're hoping to do something with Marriotts and Greenside on site soon, to explore and connect with this incredible mural...

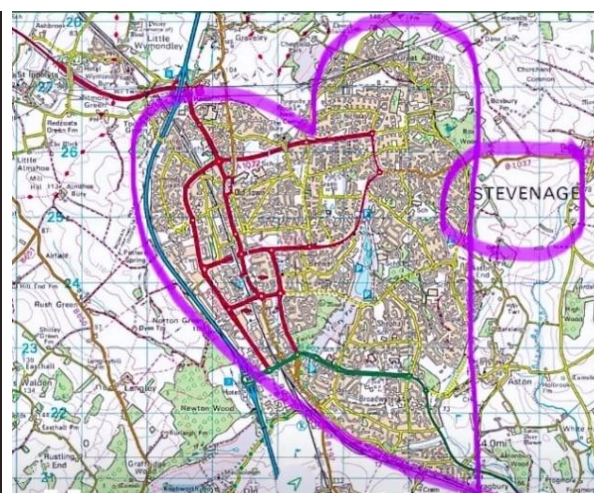
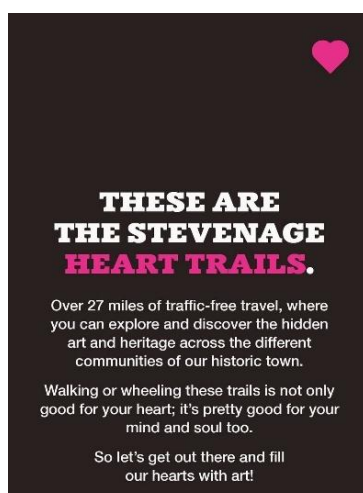
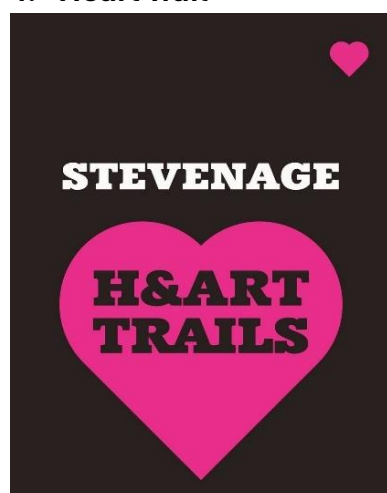
Junction 7 will also soon be creating a new mural at The Glebe, plus our LGBTQ+ themed mural on an underpass near the station (one of a series recently commissioned by Stevenage Even Better and coming soon!)

Bus Interchange sculpture



The mosaic artworks that Donna Reeves made with pupils at Almond Hill and Barclay Academy are now on display at Junction 7 - families can come and visit them any Saturday until 19th July and then they will go to Stevenage Museum until Donna's sculpture is installed at the Bus Interchange in September.

4. Heart Trail



Stevenage Borough Council and the Regeneration Team are very excited to share details of the arts and heritage trail which has been in the pipeline for a while. The trail will encompass existing public art, including sculptures and underpass murals as well as new art - such as the schools' underpass and the bus interchange sculpture.

More details to follow.

5. Art Competition from the Countryside Charity

(previously *The Campaign to Protect Rural England*)

CPRE Hertfordshire's 2025 Children's Art Competition



CPRE Hertfordshire is delighted to announce that submissions are now open for the Children's Art Competition 2025 for all primary school children in Hertfordshire aged 5-11 years.

This year's deadline to **Friday 25 July**.

The theme this year is My Adventures in the Countryside.

Children can draw anything related to what they love doing in the Hertfordshire countryside, whether it be the joy of

camping under a starry sky, the excitement of riding their bike through muddy puddles, the fun found in exploring a nature trail and spotting wildlife or the thrill of building a den in the woods.

There is a **£500 prize for the winning school** and **individual prizes in each age group category, plus a special ceremony at Knebworth House in the Autumn, to showcase and celebrate all our young artists.** For more information on the competition and **how to enter** visit the website:

<https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/news/cpre-hertfordshires-2025-childrens-art-competition/>

Simply email with a 'we will be entering' artcompetition@cpreherts.org.uk so that they look out for your entries.

6. Stevenage Regeneration – School Engagement Programme

School Engagement Programme

Our town is changing. It is an exciting time for Stevenage, with a transformation programme creating a 21st Century New Town. As part of this programme, the council is working with Stevenage schools to provide opportunities for pupils to understand what is happening, why change is needed and how they can benefit.

Pupils can learn how regeneration is introducing new ways to attract people into town, boost the local economy and provide opportunities for local people. Increasing the number of people living and working in the town helps to increase demand for local services. Other initiatives include changes to the town's transport network, improving health and wellbeing and understanding the value of Stevenage's unique New Town history, heritage and culture.

Stevenage is great. As a world-renowned location for life sciences and STEM, young people can find out about the work of local companies and educational establishments. Knowledge of this opportunity can provide an insight into careers and possible future subjects for further education and routes into apprenticeships and potential employment.



Ways to get involved with our School Engagement Programme.

Our programme aims to engage, enthuse and inspire local school children and provide them with a greater understanding of regeneration and the opportunities it presents. Through school collaboration, pupils can take part in age-appropriate, fun learning opportunities and challenges to get involved, have a say and get excited about what's happening in the town.

There are many ways to get involved. These include informative town centre regeneration tours; in-school talks and assemblies; exploring our 3D map of the town accompanied by creative activities including model making. Other activities can be linked directly to your school curriculum.

To find out more about how your school could get involved, please email regeneration@stevenage.gov.uk.

The Regeneration team offer FREE sessions to schools. See the poster for some ideas or email the team to find out more about how your school could get involved:

regeneration@stevenage.gov.uk

**STEVENAGE
BETTER**
a place for everyone

www.Stevenage-Even-Better.com

7. Stevenage Environmental Team – Opportunity for Children and Young People



The Environmental Team at SBC have plans to involve the children of Stevenage in a new creative venture. Details can be shared after the purdah period is over – towards the end of the month.

Watch this space!

8. Cultural Learning Alliance

Key Research Findings

Cultural Learning Alliance,
*Key Research Findings:
the value of cultural
learning, 2017*

1

Taking part in arts activities can increase cognitive ability by 17%

2

Learning through arts and culture can help children achieve in Maths and English

3

Learning through arts and culture develops skills and behaviour that lead children to do better in school

4

Students who take part in arts activities at school are three times more likely to get a degree

5

The employability of students who study arts subjects is higher and they are more likely to stay in employment

6

Students who engage in the arts at school are twice as likely to volunteer

7

Students who engage in the arts at school are 20% more likely to vote as young adults

8

The arts can help young people to turn their lives around: young offenders who take part in arts activities are 18% less likely to re-offend

9

Children who take part in arts activities at home during their early years are ahead in reading and Maths at age nine

10

The arts keep you healthy: people who take part in the arts are 38% more likely to report good health

Read the Key Research Findings in full at:
www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk/evidence



CLA is a charity that has been championing a right to arts and culture for every child for more than a decade. They use evidence to demonstrate the ways in which an arts-rich education provides skills for life and skills for work, enabling all children to fulfil their potential.

Please follow the link for information, research and more:

[Cultural Learning Alliance – The Cultural Learning Alliance champions a right to art and culture for every child](https://www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk/evidence)

9. Updates from Schools

Easter Art and Reading Trail

Ten schools of the Stevenage Creative Network created artwork for the Easter Trail at the Westgate Centre. Congratulations to all the winners!



Westgate Shopping Centre 4h · 🌐

Sneak peak at our Easter Trail starting Monday 7 April. Win a [The Entertainer](#) voucher plus lots of Easter Eggs up for grabs. Big shout out to the Creative Network of schools in Stevenage for their amazing artwork 🥰



EASTER BUNNY TRAIL **WEST GATE STEVENAGE**

UNCOVER THE SECRET EASTER MESSAGE!

Search our shop windows to spot the bunnies and note the letter(s) attached to each one. Write down the letter(s) in the boxes below. Uncover the letters to reveal the secret message for your chance to win Easter goodies and chocolate eggs!

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10		

THE EASTER BUNNY'S SECRET MESSAGE IS:

NAME _____ AGE _____

PHONE NUMBER OF ADULT _____

For a chance to win a prize, complete and send your activity sheet to the Big B for a chance to win a prize!



Peartree Spring Primary School and Featherstone Wood Primary School

We highly recommend the Royal Opera House's FREE programmes.

[Royal Opera House National Schools Program \(rbo.org.uk\)](http://RoyalOperaHouseNationalSchoolsProgram(rbo.org.uk))



CREATE & SING

Enhance your Music and Drama lessons at KS1 & 2.



CREATE & DANCE

Enhance your PE and Dance lessons at KS1, 2 & 3



CREATE & DESIGN

Enhance your Design & Technology and Art & Design lessons at KS1, 2 & 3.

'Discover...'

An introduction to ballet, opera and stage design:

- Travel through time from the roots of ballet and opera to the modern day
- Watch LIVE performances from famous ballets and operas
- See how props, scenery and lighting transform the stage
- Available every term!

'Everybody...'

A front row seat to one particular ballet or opera:

- Dive deeper into one ballet or opera
- Learn the story and meet the characters
- Join in with LIVE dance-alongs, sing-alongs or make-alongs
- Available every term!

Here is the link to the Create Day information.

<https://www.rbo.org.uk/schools/resource/createday>

Giles Nursery and Infants' School

Science (STEM) Week

During March, we celebrated an indescribably brilliant Science Week, led inspirationally by our two Science Leads, Mrs Humphrey and Miss O'Regan. They devised fresh, creative and imaginative activities and experiments. Throughout the school, children engaged in the widest range of activities following a cross curricular STEM focus and they loved it. In Nursery, the children explored using boxes and bricks to measure height, made comparisons about their findings and used mathematical vocabulary. The children in Reception investigated a range of fabrics to discover which ones were



reflective and suitable to wear if out in the dark. One child brought in a firefighter costume with reflectors on it and this was used to show how they reflected light when a torch was shone on them. In Key Stage One, the children enjoyed thinking about how or what changes, identifying night and day, time, humans and other animals. They looked at how the bulbs they had planted in autumn had grown and enjoyed looking at animal adaptations, including how feet are adapted to enable an animal to survive in its environment. The children learned

about how Stevenage and our school has changed over time. They explored the use and benefits of our newly fitted solar panels and thought about how we could make them even more effective. One idea was to build a tall tower to make them closer to the sun. They enjoyed using lollipop sticks and Blu-tack, plastic cups and PVA glue, spaghetti and marshmallows, or art straws and tape to build a model tower. They had to predict which of those options would be most effective before doing the construction challenge.

Underpass Competition

Livia and Alana in Year 2 were delighted to hear that their entries had won a place as part of the underpass designs. We are really looking forward to the opening celebration!

Easter

On Thursday 3rd April, the school FROG (PTA) organised an Easter stay and play. The event took place after school and children were invited to take part in a range of lovely, creative spring activities, including painting carrot and bunny ornaments, making finger puppet bunnies and decorating biscuits.

Organised by our dedicated Mrs Humphrey, the school took part in the Westgate Centre Easter Trail. Mrs Humphrey designed a bunny consisting of 9 parts. Each class was given a part to decorate and Mrs Humphrey put this back together to form the rabbit. The children were so excited to see the bunny displayed in the Westgate Centre.

The children thoroughly enjoyed creating Easter bonnets and taking part in an Easter Bonnet Parade around the school. They displayed the most beautiful bonnets while singing all our Easter and Spring songs.

Music Concerts

The pupils taking part in Rocksteady lessons performed for the whole of Year 1 and Year 2 and their grown-ups. The children showed fabulous progress in their music skills and confidence and the audience absolutely loved it.

The choir club, run by Mrs Dalton, performed a repertoire of songs for their grown-ups. They demonstrated singing in parts, holding their melodies to create harmony. They showed that they are starting to use dynamics, singing softly and loudly to create dramatic effect in a song.

Greenside School

Sponsored Walk

Our upcoming sponsored walk will be on June 19th. Our Preparing for Adulthood department theme will be 80's! Our 7 school leaver's have also chosen this theme for their Prom night in July!

Voices of Hertfordshire



Reggie is 19 and a Leaver this year. In this video he talks about Downs Syndrome. When asked what he would tell someone else to help them if they wanted advice and were Downs Syndrome themselves, Reggie replied, "Just be yourself." This affirmation resonates with the beautifully painted mural artwork attached to his classroom/ Greenside Studio at the Hyde Shops, Stevenage. *(See J7C section of this newsletter for information about the mural)* Follow the link to watch Reggie's film:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJ_RsEKJFCO/?igsh=bjZnZnVnMXk0NXFy

The Practice Roomz



The older students felt like a boy band when they took part in a session at the Practice Roomz. All the professional equipment is available.



The students loved the stand up mics and mirror walls. It's not expensive to hire - £15 an hour. The Practice Roomz is a music studio facility located in Stevenage. It has 7 fully equipped rehearsal studios, full recording facilities, mixing/mastering services, music video production, Live Sound, PA Hire and in house spares shop. Find out more on the link: <https://www.thepracticeroomz.info>



Almond Hill Junior School

Only Connect

Stevenage Borough Council is cracking down on graffiti in the town with a range of new measures. As part of the council's work to address graffiti tagging, a new arts project has been launched which will take a creative approach to help address the issue.

Junction 7 Creatives is commissioning artists to create a series of 'mini murals' on telecoms cabinets around Stevenage to brighten up the town and offer a more positive alternative to tagging. Work has already begun on the first cabinets.



The project is called 'Only Connect', because the telecoms cabinets are filled with cables that help us all stay connected. It borrows the title of the famous, local sculpture by Angela Godfrey in St Nicholas. There is evidence from other areas, including other European cities, that show artwork by local artists on media cabinets acts as a deterrent against graffiti, as it is respected and not defaced.

The children have created a range of artwork including outdoor art, created after a foraging session. Year 3 Art Club has been a great success. Children now say, "I'm an artist!"

All of the artwork by the Club will form an exhibition in school. A selection of the artwork will be painted onto telecomms cabinets outside the school by artist and teaching assistant, Charlotte Nicholls. Charlotte has been working with Junction 7 Creatives to realise this ambition. Charlotte plans for the cabinets to include some of the aims and ethos of the school through powerful statements, such as 'Be Respectful' and 'Aim High'.

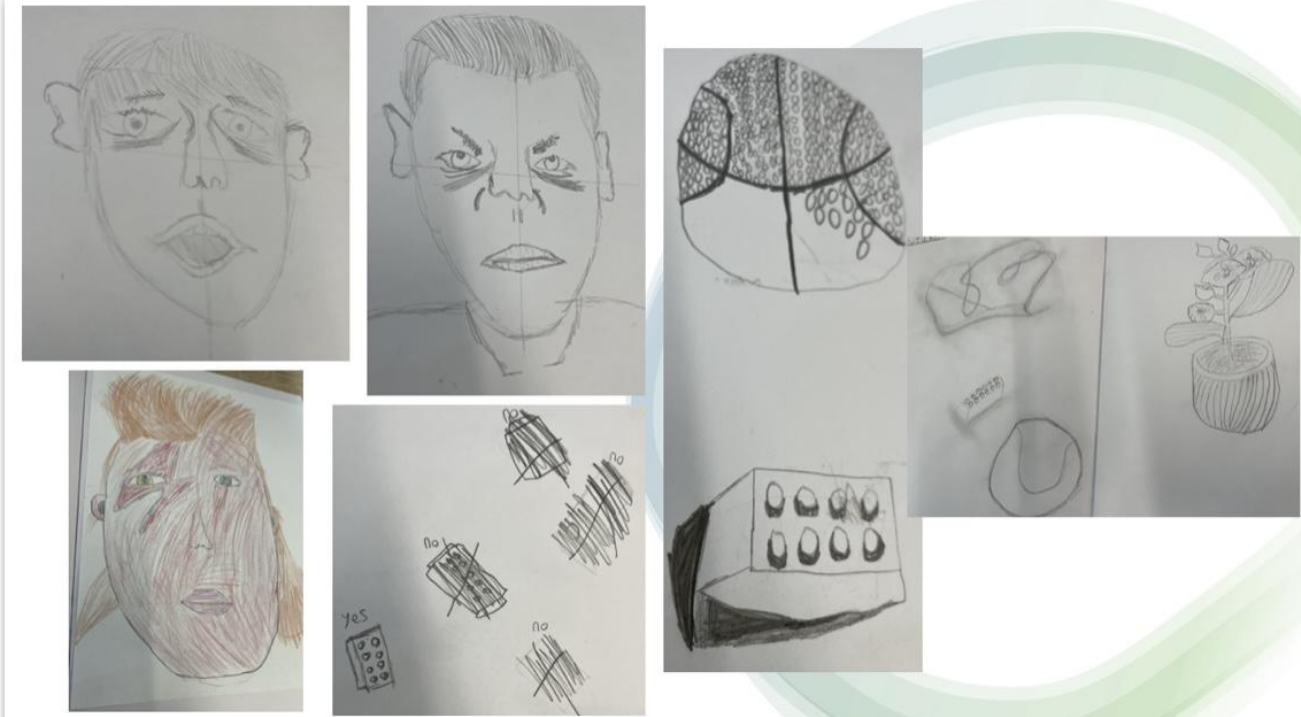
Watch this space!

Bus Interchange Sculpture



The mosaic artworks that Donna Reeves made with pupils at Almond Hill and Barclay Academy are now on display at Junction 7 - families can come and visit them any Saturday until 19th July and then they will go to Stevenage Museum until Donna's sculpture is installed at the Bus Interchange in September.

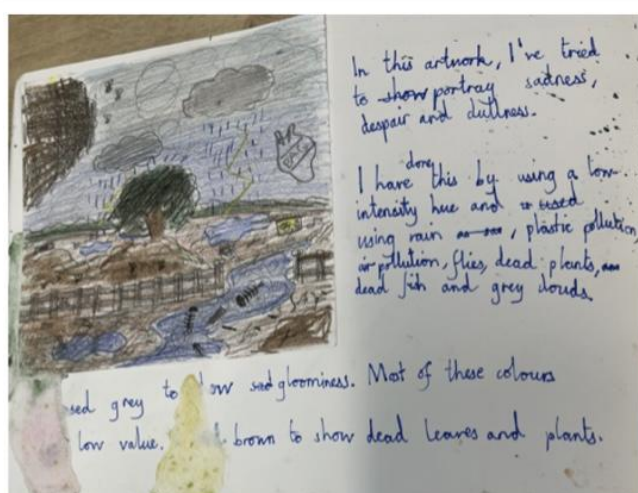
Sketchbooks



We've been focusing on our sketchbooks during the last term. The children are able to explain the thoughts behind an artist's piece. What are they looking to achieve? Is their artwork a reflection of what is happening in the world? As well as learning to appreciate the language that is associated with art to discuss how the artist created their pieces.

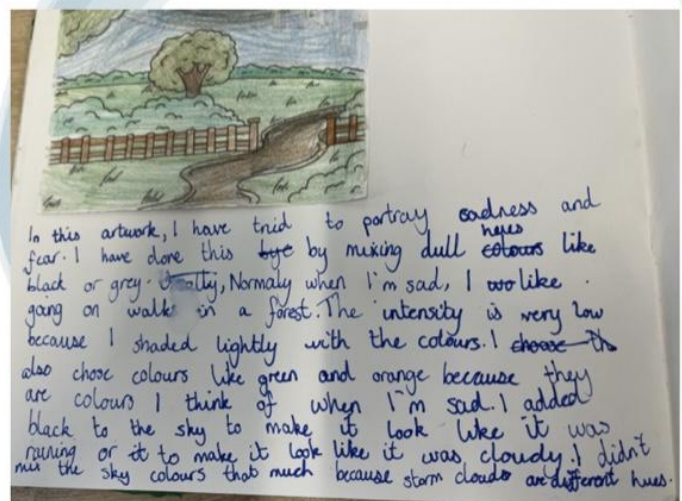
Their own recent artwork has been linked to their own political statements. They're also using art to express their emotions and reflect on their own mental health.

For example, a child scribbled all over the head part of their work. We may have previously believed they have 'spoilt their nice picture' but he was able to verbalise that the scribble was representative of his mental health, how things feel to him in his head and this is how he visualises it...



Great examples!

Here, a very simple colouring activity has been used to get the children thinking about, and using, the taught vocabulary. When they work on their own piece, they have had a go at appraising something and it may then come more naturally to them.



Lonsdale School

What an exhilarating few months it has been for our students at Lonsdale! In March, a group of our talented pupils attended the prestigious **Royal Albert Hall Gala**, soaking in the atmosphere and showcasing their skills. Back in school, they dove into the vibrant world of **Fauvism**, experimenting with different media to express their creativity. Our **Open Orchestra** sessions were a real hit, exploring the enchanting sounds of Pachelbel's Canon. Not to be left out, our students engaged in **Drumba**, a fantastic cross-curricular initiative that merged Music and PE, bringing rhythm and movement together in a fun and interactive way!



Also, we are looking forward to the exciting **Sky Arts Week**.

The website provides free, easy-to-use teaching resources that cover a range of artforms within Marks, Images, Words, Moves, and Sounds, all designed to take students on a year-long creative journey that culminates in Access All Arts Week in June. This year, Access All Arts

Week will feature daily Live Lessons led by well-known artists. From rap to photography, poetry to drawing, all our activities are designed to spark creativity and inspire imaginations.

Sign up to take part: [Homepage - Sky Arts](#)

Woolenwick Schools

Research

Christina Anderson, Inclusion Leader and Specialist Leader in Cultural Education, recently took part in research with the Royal Ballet Opera earlier this year exploring the creative ingredients needed to allow creative and cultural learning to thrive.

You can read the report here:

https://rohlearningplatform.cdn.prismic.io/rohlearningplatform/Z8nbCxsAHJWomMsi_RBO_Creative_Ingredients_Report_2024_FINAL.pdf

Christina has since taken part in the follow up research, exploring the stories of change through chance and choice. The report will be shared when it is available.

THE HERDS is public art and climate action on an unprecedented scale. In April an ever-growing herd of life-size puppet animals began a four month 20,000km journey from the Congo Basin to the Arctic Circle fleeing the destruction of their ecosystem due to the climate crisis. [THE HERDS](#)

As the project moved across the world to Stevenage, the Museum worked with three primary schools, an artist and a dancer to take part. As starlings are an endangered species in the UK, they were the focus for the Stevenage project. This groundbreaking public art and climate initiative aimed to inspire action and strengthen our connection to the natural world. Thanks to the generous funding secured by the Museum, the workshops in school were free. The Museum collaborated with artist, Anji Archer, and dancer, Maga Judd, to create a captivating piece of art inspired by the beauty of nature—a Starling



Murmuration.

Throughout the day on Monday 2nd June, artist Anji Archer, dancer Maga Judd and Kate Johnston, Education Officer at the Museum, came to Woolenwick and run workshops with four classes. The children crafted bird puppets with local artist Anji Archer, and then worked with the talented dancer, Maga Judd, to develop a stunning dance piece, representing a murmuration of starlings, that was filmed from above by a drone.



Making starling puppets



Finished puppets



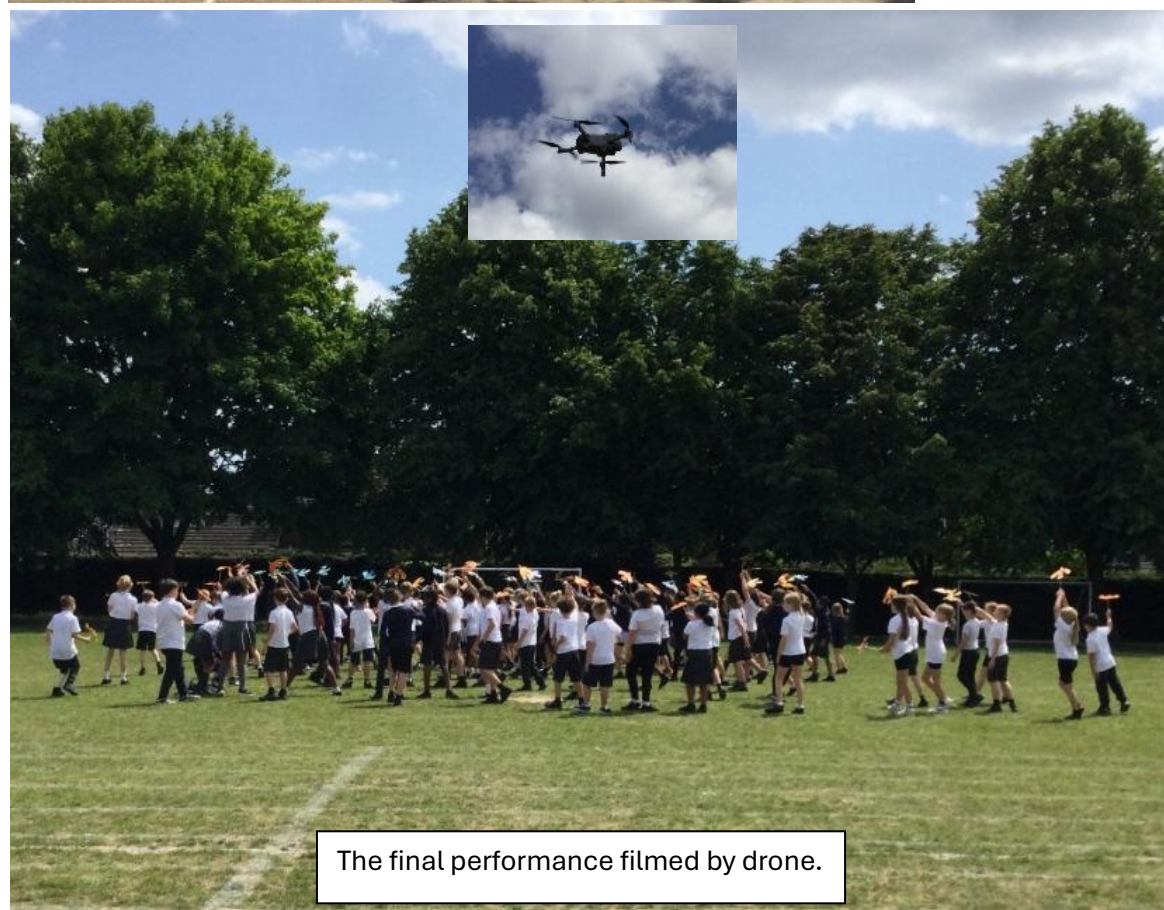
Rehearsal with Maga

From the Museum flyer:
In the Foyer

The HERDS: A murmuration of starlings

Follow the starlings from the front window to the foyer as we take part in the exciting international art and climate project, THE HERDS. With funding from The Arts Fund, we've worked with three primary schools, two visual artists, a dance artist and a drone photographer to create puppets and used them (and the children who made them!) to create a stunning murmuration of

starlings. Visit the museum to see the film and installation.



The final performance filmed by drone.

Music



HFL Education **Hertfordshire Music Service** **£50+VAT**

MUSIC LEADERS AND TEACHERS OF MUSIC – DEVELOPMENT DAY 2025.

Creating a community and shared musical experience

Wednesday 2nd July 2025
9:15am – 4:00pm
Mid-Herts Centre for Music & Arts,
Birchwood Avenue,
Hatfield AL10 0PS

SARAH TODD
Exploring creative composition ideas with young children in different musical environments

Our Music Lead, Sarah Todd, will be hosting a workshop at the upcoming Music Leaders Development Day. (See poster for details)

To book a place, follow the link:

[Music Leaders and Teachers of Music – Development Day 2025](#)