

Stop Press News



Artist's Workshop Inspires Creative Sculptures from Prior Park Pupils

Our Year 8 pupils created impressive artwork inspired by the work of visiting sculptor, Anna Gillespie. This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to work with an artist for the day. During a one day art workshop, pupils learnt to express their emotions through the human figure. Prior to the workshop, pupils developed sketchbook work inspired by Anna's artwork and they also looked at other sculptors who use the human figure as subject matter.



Above: *Imogen posing for her own model.*

They used their own life experiences as starting points for the artwork and looked at how a figurative form can portray their feelings.



Our pupils maturely approached this sensitive aspect of the project and were able to discuss openly about specific emotions that affect them. Pupils worked from photographs of themselves and studied their own figures in order to create realistic sculptures.

They portrayed themselves within particular poses and produced various drawings. The visiting artist, Anna Gillespie, encouraged and supported the pupils throughout the day, creating personal responses to the project theme. She was excellent at communicating and relating to the pupils,

helping them to develop their own ideas. Anna talked about her work and brought in examples for the pupils to handle and showed some of her work in progress. She discussed how different found objects can create various surface textures and how artists are constantly looking for new and innovative ideas.

It was wonderful to see the pupils realise their sketchbook ideas into a three-dimensional piece of sculpture. They learnt how to make quiet complex structures and develop their own style in response to the project theme. The artwork was of an extremely high standard and show how with specialist support, our pupils can produce artwork that surpasses their age.

The collection of sculptures formed a theme for a subsequent assembly given by the artists themselves to the rest of the school. Each pupil gave an explanation of the techniques used and which emotions inspired their respective pieces.



“Each sculpture was the result of thorough preparation work and considerable powers of concentration and skill. Three dimensional work is especially complicated also - the pupils should be very proud of their creations - they all made full use of their opportunity to work with such an inspirational artist,” said Mrs Brookes, Head of Art at the school.