



**Centre:** Create Studios

**Adviser:** Jennifer Blackwood

## Context

Create Studios is an award winning digital media centre in the cultural hub of Swindon. They have delivered Arts Award for a number of years and recently worked with 6 Bronze participants within their Code Runners project. Create Studios integrates Arts Award delivery into various projects with digital media skills. One of their key priorities is to work with young people in danger of social exclusion.



photo: Create Studios

The Code Runners project ran as a pilot project from January to June 2012, managed by Create Studios, with delivery partners Evil Twin Artworks. The aim of the project was to use games programming and animation to re-engage young people out of mainstream education in learning new skills. The project was delivered over three educational settings and in Create Studios' own media suite. The project also highlighted curriculum links, for example, literacy through writing storyboards and maths and IT through coding.

## Approach

**Part A:** the young people worked on developing their mac, animation and games programming skills through programmes including Comic Life, Garage Band and Scratch.

**Part B:** Create Studios holds an event called 'Preloader' which is a regional youth film festival in partnership with Mediahubhub and Salisbury Arts Centre. The young people were unable to attend this so Create Studios brought the event to their classroom where they watched, scored and discussed the entries.

**Part C:** each participant studied their own arts hero. One young person created his arts hero in Comic Life.

**Part D:** each participant planned and delivered their skill sharing using Scratch, Comic Life or Garage Band.

Create Studios developed relationships with the young people, gaining their trust and building confidence over a period of ten 3 hour sessions during the project. The Arts Award framework was gradually introduced into the work. Create Studios received public funding for the project to run.

## Impact

Create Studios have also developed valuable relationships with the Youth Offending Team and the Tuition Service and Arts Award was recognised by the settings' support workers as a really valuable qualification that is both manageable and achievable in the settings and timescale. One of the teachers has now been trained as an Arts Award adviser at Create Studios.

## Comments

*'I think Arts Award is a great way to structure activity, whether it is one to one or a group class. It's versatile and allows the participant the freedom explore their journey through art.'*

**Jennifer Blackwood, Production Assistant**

*'Best course I've been on! I would carry it on 100% at home.'*

**Robbie, Bronze Award achiever**