



## Centre: Falinge Park High School and Performing Arts College Good Practice Centre 2015-2016

### Context

Falinge Park High School and Performing Arts College is a comprehensive for 11-16 year olds in North Rochdale. They are a well established performing arts college with a broad arts curriculum and extensive extra-curricular provision. They have been delivering Arts Award for more than three years with over 120 awards achieved to date.

### Approach

Arts Award is offered to all students at the school which is also a hub for local primary schools delivering the Bronze Award. The hub offers adviser training and a weekly Arts Award club which is open to primary school pupils.

The school creates a regular platform for showcases, exhibitions and performances both in-house and in local and regional venues. A community arts calendar helps to build and develop student engagement.

Additionally, Falinge Park offers the opportunity for students from a number of schools to participate in large scale cross-arts projects at venues across the North West. This has included a large exhibition and showcase event at the Imperial War Museum North with over 650 attendees from seven different schools. Students use these experiences support their Arts Award participation.

The development of the Arts Award Club and some support through curriculum time has meant the centre is able to tailor provision for art forms such as magicianship, Mehndi art and design and stop motion animation.

Regular links with local and regional arts organisations has helped to inspire and motivate students, supporting delivery of the programme. Students have worked with organisations including M6 Theatre Company, Cartwheel Arts, Can't Dance Can, Company Chameleon Dance theatre, Just Poets and the Halle Orchestra. Partnerships have involved master classes and workshops that have led learners to other sessions or work experience opportunities beyond school.



Falinge Park uses the school virtual learning environment as well as information provided during workshops to ensure that at any early stage, participants can get an overview of evidence requirements and are able to continue the journey independently, using the adviser for guidance as required. Students then discuss their work and progress with staff, parents and friends at an 'Arts Award Expo'.

Arts Award is generally funded by the school but subsidy is sometimes gained through audience ticket sales for events, shows and community classes. The school has also used the sales of greeting cards, badges and other created items to subsidise visits to arts events for individuals with financial barriers. Using Pupil Premium funding and capitalising on local arts provision has helped the centre to keep costs down.

## Impact

*'Arts Award has had a tremendous impact on the confidence, emotional intelligence, creativity and independence of young people and our internal evaluation surveys have shown the process to be meaningful and significant in developing the artistic interests of students.'*

**Simon De Courcey, Head of Creative, Expressive and Performing Arts**

One student is now employed as a local dance teacher following completion of the Gold Award and several students volunteer with local heritage settings based on their experience of doing Silver Arts Award. Many students going on to study the arts further at the next stage of their education.

Falinge Park has made real progress in the development of technical theatre through its role as an Arts Award centre. Following completion of Silver Arts Award and traditional theatre qualifications, several students have gone on to study technical theatre in the sixth form and at university. The school has employed a qualified theatre technician to work with individual students and to pass on skills to other staff.

## Comments

*'Arts Award has had a significant impact on the confidence, emotional intelligence and literacy skills of our young people. They are able to reflect on their own personal self development and pursue their creative interests within a challenging timeframe. This underpins work in many other curriculum areas and pastorally.'*

**Gillian Skerrow, Deputy Headteacher**

*'Arts Award has helped to develop real teamwork amongst advisers and staff and they show a genuine willingness to respond to new ideas and initiatives brought forth by students.'*

**Graham Boff, Arts Link Governor**



*'Through Arts Award I have learnt lots of different skills which I will use in later life and future employment. I have learnt to be more confident and Arts Award has played a big part in that process.'*

**Lauren, 14, Silver Award achiever, working towards a Gold Award**

*September 2015*