



Centre: The Core

Arts Award Good Practice Centre 2015-16

Context

The Core is the main arts venue in Corby, Northamptonshire. The venue offers a number of activities from weekly drama sessions to one off digital projects, dance residencies to musical taster workshops. The Core also offers Arts Award at all levels and across multiple arts forms with young people aged 5-25 years old. They have been delivering Arts Award for two years. 91 young people have achieved awards to date.

The Core mostly works with children and young people at risk. Corby is one of the 10 least arts funded places in the country. It also has the highest rate of unemployment.

Approach

The Core makes Arts Award exciting for young people by giving them the opportunity to experience different art forms. The young people taking part are from a variety of backgrounds and The Core offers a range of Arts Award activity to support their varying needs. Although the young people are working towards a qualification The Core work hard to make it feel different from school.

When gathering evidence for Arts Award portfolios The Core encourages young people to work together at different levels. For example, one young person might film/take photos of another for their evidence or young people working on Bronze can help plan and deliver Explore projects to the younger people taking part.

Throughout their Arts Award journey they use video footage to capture evidence. They also use folders for project plans, event notes, accompanied by disks with annotated photos and video diaries, with their reflection.

Impact

The biggest successes have been delivering Bronze and Gold Arts Award.

After Christina completed Gold Arts Award, her place at Leeds University (to study Arts Event Management) was changed from conditional to unconditional.

For Beckie doing Gold Arts Award led to her getting a job as a Creatives Project Assistant at The Core, as she gained valuable experience in the day-to-day running of the Creatives Projects department. Beckie also trained as a Discover

& Explore Adviser and assisted in the planning and running of Arts Award. Beckie is now a Bronze & Silver adviser and now assists with the delivery of the whole Arts Award programme.

For Explore which ran January to March 2015, Corby worked with young people from the Association of Northamptonshire Supplementary Schools (ANSS) where their first languages were Polish, Lithuanian, Serbian & Latvian meaning they had to overcome language barriers first and foremost. This group of young people had not interacted in the arts prior to the project. This was a successful project as over the 12 week period they experienced different art forms, chose one they wanted to work with and devised a dance piece that was showcased as part of The Core's Slam Event.

Comments

'I gained an understanding of what it's like to work within the arts sector – and I loved it Completing the portfolio whilst working practically to gain experience was tricky. I was able to work through the pressure with the help of my adviser and the Core Producers. Being a part of a group with the same motivations and interests as me really helped me to develop my skills and confidence. I'm grateful to Arts Award for pushing me to pursue my creative potential. 10/10, would recommend.'

Beckie Manning, Gold Arts Award Achiever

'I became an Arts Award adviser as I enjoy working with young people and believe in them getting the most out of every opportunity. It is rewarding because when they 'get' how to do something or complete a unit, I also feel that I have achieved something.'

Michelle Ferguson, Arts Award Adviser

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