

## Z-arts – Bright Spark School Case Study

### Holy Name: Case Study. July 2015

Holy Name RC Primary School has been participating with Z-arts for a number of years on creative learning programmes and visits to theatre performances. However in January 2015 they became a member of the Bright Spark School programme, a yearlong commitment to enrich the curriculum, attend performances and provide access to extracurricular opportunities at Z-arts in Hulme.

The main area of the programme has been centred on improving creativity and imagination through performance workshops. Working with professional Z-artist Emma Kennedy, the school planned a creative engagement with each class over 7 months.

The students have enhanced class topics such as, Changes in living memory, WW1, Egyptians, Space, WW2 and Africa.

Jenny Brierley, Assistant head at Holy Name said;

*“The project has given our children an opportunity to explore the arts both inside and outside a classroom setting. It has expanded their understanding of how they can express themselves creatively and opened their imaginations to new ways of learning. It has provided teachers with the opportunity to experience how topic work can be brought to life by using drama as a stimulus. Also how creative learning through the arts can provide cross curriculum links.”*

This investment in long term engagement is about providing the whole school; teachers and students with the opportunity to use their ideas, imagination and creativity day to day in their work. By accessing their creativity and imagination the students are finding new ways to learn and teachers are given the time to look at new ways to teach. When exploring History, what better way to learn than to experience it; walk in the shoes of those historically figures and bring stories to life so they can better understand and remember them.

Jenny continues;

*“The Bright Sparks partnership has been particular beneficial with children who are under confident and perhaps do not show strengths in areas of the curriculum such as Maths and English. It has provided these children with a platform for them to display their talents and strengths through a creative medium which is not always expressed through more traditional teaching methods.”*

Working across the curriculum in this way allows students of all abilities the chance to be engaged. Students that are having more challenges with learning can approach a subject practically, allowing those students to not only demonstrate a particular talent, but to digest information in their own way. The workshop’s that Emma Kennedy delivers at Holy Name, are linked to the subjects the children need to find out about, but by tapping into a Kinaesthetic mode of working allows all learners to get the most out of the lesson.

Finally;

*“It has provided our school with opportunities to work creatively with experienced and highly skilled professionals. These are areas within our own school that we do not have much experience or*

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*knowledge in. The children have been completely engaged in the process and it has provided substance and meaning to the delivery of our topic work. It has provided opportunities for children to learn and express themselves outside the classroom, which can sometimes be challenging. We have seen children who are normally disengaged and under confident blossom and show a passion for learning.”*

We are currently working with 6 schools on the Bright Spark School programme. Students are not only engaged in drama, but are also using dance, ceramic art, screen printing and Illustration to excite their learning and inspire creativity.