



**Northern Gallery for
Contemporary Art.**

Watch This Space 6 Project Report Supporting work related learning and the Diploma in Creative and Media

**Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art
by Amanda Gould**

Staff Involved:

Jason Porteous – Head of Art & Design at Sandhill View School.

Kay Stott – Performing Arts Facilitator, Sandhill View School.

Amanda Gould – Arts Education and Outreach Officer, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art.

Pupils Involved:

Key Stage 5, Level 2 Creative and Media Diploma students - 13 pupils

Sandhill View School and Houghton Kepier School - Induction Day 1

- The teachers received a tour of the two gallery spaces with Alistair Robinson, Programme Director who talked about the inception of the gallery in 1996 and the gallery remit.
- He introduced the current Project Space exhibition by Desmond Church and talked through the ideas within the work, making reference to other similar artists.
- We walked around the main gallery which was in changeover. The teachers were shown some of the work being installed and some rooms which were in the middle of being painted and waiting for work. The teachers were interested by the level of activity in the gallery, the number of freelance staff involved and that the work is often still being installed on the day of the preview.
- The Programme Director talked about his role in making the exhibition from initial ideas of the theme, to finding the designers and think tanks, to commissioning new work, to deciding on the room layout, to writing the text. The teachers commented that this had changed their idea

that curators always selected existing work or exhibitions and just needed to make it fit our gallery.

- We visited another arts venues in Sunderland and looked at the remains of a previous installation piece from the NGCA, Rory Macbeth's 'Utopia'.
- Alex Ryley, Marketing Officer talked about her role including press, website, facebook site, audience feedback and audience development.
- We discussed how each school could develop a project and possible ways to move on from the first day.

Sandhill View School - Induction Day 2

- Jason Porteous received a full tour of the 'Think Tank' exhibition lead by Programme Director Alistair Robinson.
- Jason met with Amanda Gould, Arts Education and Outreach Officer and the Programme Director and discussed some of the issues faced by the gallery in terms of audience, funding, school interest etc. Jason was interested in what the gallery aims are and what we are trying to achieve through the education programme.
- Amanda talked Jason through some examples of previous education projects with a range of age groups and look at what is available on the website. We also discussed our aims and objectives for the project and planned the pupil's visits to the gallery.

Project aims identified by the NGCA and Jason Porteous:

- To explore how the NGCA can support the delivery of the Creative and Media Diploma.
- For pupils to gain an understanding of the day to day life of a gallery and the purpose of having a gallery in the city.
- Pupils to gain first hand experience of the cultural sector and find out about job roles within the sector.
- Create a real experience for diploma pupils and a real brief for the students to work to.
- For teaching staff and NGCA education staff to identify areas in which the NGCA can support pupils learning.
- To work in partnership to promote the NGCA to other schools.

Project objectives:

- NGCA education staff to gain an understanding of how the Creative and Media Diploma is being delivered within Sandhill View School.
- To support the delivery of Unit 4: Record and Unit 5: Campaign of the Level 2 Creative and Media Diploma.
- Discuss and identify the role of the NGCA in providing opportunities for work related learning.
- Develop an educational resource for schools to encourage wider use of the NGCA as part of pupil's learning.

Sandhill View School – Project Day 1

The following brief for students was devised by teacher Jason Porteous and given to the 2nd year Level 2 Creative & Media Diploma students.

‘Over the next six weeks you are going to be documentary makers. You are to put together a documentary style piece/promotional video which outlines the work of the NGCA in Sunderland. We will be meeting at the NGCA to take part in a film workshop as well as meet the staff. Start thinking about Record now...record everything you do and the journeys you make.

Questions to consider;

What work does the NGCA do?

Does it sit in the shadow of its more famous cousin the Baltic? Discuss

Who is it there for?

Where is it?

Are the public aware of its existence?’

- 13 students from Creative & Media Diploma course visited the gallery and took part in a workshop led by professional filmmaker Andrew Coats.
- The students arrived armed with various hand held video and stills cameras to begin their recording of the day.
- Andrew introduced the students to using professional film cameras and sound equipment. The students learnt about using different camera angles and techniques such as pan and tilt, close ups and long shots and were given a brief to make 2 short films in half an hour using 3 different shots which were edited in camera.
- Andrew demonstrated how the camera is positioned in interview situations and how the interviewer is often filmed afterwards – nodding to the answers.
- The students were then asked to write down 5 questions and to set up an experimental interview with a member of staff from the NGCA.
- The Education and Outreach Officer and the Marketing Officer were both interviewed and filmed and the resulting films shown back to both groups for evaluation.

Sandhill View School Project Day 2

- The students continued to work in the two groups and spent the week in between visits planning the final documentaries.
- They returned to the NGCA on Thursday 26th November to spend a whole day in the gallery making their documentaries. This included interviews with 4 gallery staff members and 15 members of the public and shots of the interior and exterior of the gallery.

The questions given to the members of the public included:

“Have you heard of the NGCA?”

“Do you regularly visit the NGCA?”

“Do you think the NGCA suffers from not having it’s own building?” “Where have you seen the NGCA advertised?”

- Questions for staff were tailored to their particular area of work as all of the students had been given job descriptions and key roles of the NGCA staff members.

After the visits

- The filmmaker, Andrew Coats, continued to work with the students in school to make selections about which shots to use in the final film and to make the necessary edits.
- The students also used still images of the gallery and the education programme to portray some of the events that had been mentioned in the interviews.
- Jason Porteous worked with the students in school time to create an educational pack to be sent out to schools as an introduction to the NGCA. The pack will contain copies of the DVD made by the students, alongside a map showing the location and some information about the gallery itself.

Outputs:

- 2 short documentary films have been produced which were planned, filmed and edited by students.
- 13 students spent a day and a half at the NGCA.
- 4 NGCA staff members interviewed by Sandhill View School pupils.
- 15 members of the public interviewed about their knowledge of the NGCA.
- 1 ½ days spent at NGCA by pupils.
- 4 days employment for local filmmaker Andrew Coats.
- 1 educational resource created.

Learning Outcomes – expected/unexpected for NGCA

Expected:

- Developing a working partnership and finding out about how the school is delivering the Creative & Media Diploma.

Unexpected:

- Short timescale of projects and small number of contact hours for the Diploma.
- Difficulty of teachers taking time out of school even with the offer of supply cover.

- Making a documentary is a great way to engage young people in the day to day processes of the gallery. The pupils were really focussed and asked lots of questions because they knew they had to use the information for the film.
- The subject of the documentary has been a very useful learning process for the gallery staff and has raised some important issues about the awareness of the gallery within the city.
- Useful learning process in finding out about how people perceive the gallery – both the students ideas and the public. Also to find out whether people are aware of the gallery's location and what it can offer.
- Finding out how young people would go about promoting and advertising the gallery e.g. posters and TV adverts were suggested.

Student comments:

