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Creativity is intelligence having fun

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It has felt as though being creative has not been seen as essential in Education and in people's mind-sets for some time. We as a team wanted to shine a light on how creativity is a vital skill to have, and had planned to do a whole school activity highlighting the importance of creativity and its relevance to every subject just as the Academy went into lock down. It has been encouraging to see people engaging with being creative and how it has had a positive impact on their well-being. All of us have had to adapt creatively to life and work in these unprecedented times.



As lockdown has continued, I have listened to and watched a variety of webinars by Nicola Hood, Debra Kidd, Amy Bills and Nicola Powling. A common theme that resonated with me was how the importance of creativity was now being taken more seriously, with substantial evidence that emphasised how creativity in the curriculum is essential. These webinars were informative and inspiring and aided my reflection of my own practice, and the KS3 Art curriculum in particular. Taking into consideration the requirements of the Art KS1, 2 and 3 National Curriculum, the advice and suggestions through the webinars, and time to evaluate collaboratively with the Art team, we gradually began to unpick our schemes of learning, and plan a more robust approach to the KS3 curriculum.

Using the new templates for curriculum plans, I was able, based on team discussions, to re-write our Year 7, Year 8 and (Year 9 project 1) schemes of learning. Christina Roche wrote the plans for Year 9 projects 2 and 3. The curriculum plans have been a solid foundation in which to create the KS3 curriculum journey map, assessment opportunities, knowledge organisers, home learning tasks and sequence of lessons etc. As a team, we are working collaboratively to create new lessons and resources that explore links to other subjects and the wider world. Also to provide further learning and enrichment opportunities and aid students with the knowledge and skills to become confident artists.

Debra Kidd said in her webinar that she thought, “The purpose of education was to create happy and creative individuals”. I strongly believe that on our return to the Academy and with our adapted schemes of learning, we will be able to inspire students and give them the opportunities to be creative and recognise the positive impact it can have on their personal and professional lives.

