

Case Study: Admiral Lord Nelson School



Hayden Taylor – Governor , Artsmark Platinum Award

We have a really clear message that is we value arts and cultural education and we want our school to value it for years to come. I think our school has a really powerful vision which is all about encouraging our young people to dare to dream and aim to achieve that's our motto. We're a nationally recognised leader in this field, we're the creative school of the year.

We have a real task here in Portsmouth to build young people's social and cultural capital, and I think one way is through performing arts. It's a great way to engage young people in conversations about current issues and the world around them, and in a really engaging fashion so I think that's why it's really important but also I think it's about skills. The skills that you develop through the arts is actually hugely transferable and hugely valuable and I do think it contributes to academic performance. Arts and culture is part of our community, it makes us a more diverse, a more interesting place to be and it gives young people the space and the platform to share their ideas, to share their views, and to share who they really are.

I think there's a great opportunity in this country now to shift the narrative away from narrowing the curriculum to actually say what role can arts and cultural education play in enhancing our whole school experience. The arts and cultural education that we have here at Admiral Lord Nelson School is hugely important, we're all united behind that vision as a board and we make sure we put strategic priority and time into making sure it's the best quality provision that we possibly can have across the school.

I myself studied here at this school I remember in fact being involved in a Year Nine performing arts programme and actually in many way I attribute my confidence, my self-esteem, my ability to communicate, to my incredible experiences I had at Admiral Lord Nelson School, I think it made me more employable and I think it's given me a brighter future.