



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

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Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to share our fantastic news with you; we have been awarded our **Silver Artsmark** award in recognition of our growing work at Dashwood and commitment to the Arts.

Our recent submission of our Statement of Commitment and Statement of Impact were assessed and we are so pleased to share this feedback from our assessors with you:

Art is clearly a strength at Dashwood Banbury Academy. Much thought and planning has gone into designing an art curriculum which links art with other subjects in an authentic way that pupils can relate to. The study of a range of local and international artists representing different countries and cultures supports pupils to understand the richness and diversity of society. Pupils draw on their knowledge of artists studied to write biographies as part of their I Am an Author work in English. In Geography, Year 5 study the artist Beatriz Milhazes when learning about South America, whilst in Music and Dance pupils learn to compose salsa beats and dance steps. The willow-woven tree whole school project sounds wonderful and provided opportunities for pupils to learn new skills such as willow weaving, structure strengthening techniques, paper layering to bond and strengthen, painting and designing. School leaders have supported the professional development of the Art Lead who has benefitted from training delivered by the North Oxfordshire Cultural Education Partnership. The Art Lead has built teacher confidence by modelling visual art skills through an in-house CPD programme. This has resulted in an increasing number of staff feeling more confident in delivering visual art sessions.

The children have been working on art projects in their year groups and also collaborated on whole school art projects such as the willow-lantern tree in our Grove library. Each year our pupils learn about artists from across the world and a broad range of different art forms. Our art curriculum aims to both develop key artistic skills and to introduce our children to a range of artists from different historical periods and cultures. We understand that our art curriculum should give children the tools they need to develop skills in a range of art media, combined with experiencing the work of a wide range of artists and craftspeople, including famous artists. This is a fantastic way for the children to explore ideas, and to gain the ability to express themselves. Therefore, we have developed three whole school art threads:

1. Express emotions and feelings through art.
2. The impact art has on their lives and the lives of others.
3. How art has shaped history, creativity and culture.

These threads are focused upon throughout our art units, so that the pupils are able to experience and practise differing art mediums whilst developing knowledge of how art links with history and different cultures.



Talk for Writing



We aim for our children to learn about a variety of art movements, artists and sculptors before recreating their art, adding their own personal ideas and flair. These experiences are planned to enable children to work increasingly confidently and independently, in making their own choices in how and why they choose to express their ideas and emotions in art.

We are very proud that our very successful collaboration between pupils and staff at Dashwood has been recognised with the Silver Artsmark award. We strive to keep growing our art curriculum in new and different ways – watch this space!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Gooch' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Annelise Gooch
Acting Vice Principal