

Leeds College of Art
Leeds College of Art Progression After School Art Club
Category: Raising Aspirations

The After School Club is led by the two Progression Support Workers Diane Edwards and Gareth Wadkin.

The club enables creative pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and years 10 to 13 from across 13 local schools to take part in a sustained activity, using the acclaimed specialist resources and workshops at the College to expand upon their creative skills and raise aspirations towards Higher Education in the Creative and Visual Arts. The Club is run as a twilight after school opportunity running three times a year for an 8 week programme.

Creatively the participants have taken on animation, textile printing, printmaking processes, drawing, design and visual research. Throughout the term the group of up to 30 young people are mentored by student ambassadors who facilitate and impart their experience and skills to the group. The Student Ambassadors act as role models to the participants in order to raise aspirations to continuing within the Arts. This in turn enhances the Student Ambassadors interpersonal, communication and facilitation skills and enhances opportunity for them to progress into employment in the future.

Participation in the After School Club at Leeds College of Art has resulted in the participants building enhanced art and design portfolios to submit for application and interview to progress into Further Education and Higher Education. This has resulted in students gaining places at Leeds College of Art and other Universities. It also increases confidence in entering higher education context and expands experience of the young person of the potential for continuing into the Creative Industries.

This WP activity which is targeted and prioritised to students with WP criteria such as in care, disabled, of a minority ethnicity and from low participation postcodes. The programme is free to the participants and is resourced with specialist materials. The Club also uses the collections and events in museums, galleries as a source for inspiration thereby raising the young person's cultural capital and knowledge of the Arts.

If you would like to learn more about the After School Club or if you would like to get in touch with Leeds College of Art, please contact Michael Naughton on Michael.naughton@londonhigher.ac.uk