

Hybrid Articles

hybrid:arts

Issue 30. May 08

a new species of training provider in the creative industries

culture art youth technology partnership learning communication people service

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celebrating our move northwards

Hybrid Arts are pleased to announce that we are making moves to extend our delivery into North Warwickshire, thanks to support from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Rachael Stewart (below, left), Partnership Manager at the LSC, said: "The LSC is committed to working in partnership to enhance the life chances of young people. A strong partnership exists between the LSC and North Warwickshire and Hinckley College in the form of a programme called On Track which is offering a wide range of courses aimed at re-engaging young people in the north of the Hybrid Arts has joined this partnership which will provide even more choice in this area and we look forward to working with them."

Ursula Russell (below, right), Hybrid Arts patron, commented on the move: "I am delighted that Hybrid Arts will be working in partnership with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College to offer new, exciting opportunities to young people who, perhaps, have not found much to engage them in learning so far. Substantial funding from Coventry and Warwickshire LSC will enable Hybrid Arts and the College to make a real difference to the lives and learning of those on e2e and NEETS courses."



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minister visits hybrid arts

Earlier this month Hybrid Arts were visited by Liam Byrne MP, Minister for the West Midlands, to see first hand the work young people are doing with new digital media. Liam's vision is to make the West Midlands the new media centre of the world, with the region's young people at the forefront. He spoke with our young people to learn about their individual experiences and ideas, from the unique perspective of those who have experienced disengagement from conventional academic learning. This discussion was recorded by Hybrid Arts and you can listen to the exclusive podcast on our website www.hybridarts.co.uk/projects/listen/html During the visit Liam said: "Sometimes when you hear people discussing issues like this you hear people say, 'Well the problem with this young person is that they don't have ambitions.' But what I've come to see...is that you have to turn the question around. You have to say, 'You have to find what their ambitions are.' Because, actually, most people are ambitious, but what they're looking for isn't necessarily what's on offer."

Over the course of the visit, Liam heard directly from a number of young people how creative media had directly influenced their lives, not only improving their skills base but also 'broadening horizons' and 'boosting confidence'. At the end of the visit, Liam told the group: "You get to see a lot of things in this job, and you should be really proud of what you've done here. It's one of the most extraordinary things I've seen since I became the Regional Minister."

From left: Terry Herlihy and Patrick Cross from Hybrid Arts, Liam Byrne MP



hybrid arts become approved

Hybrid Arts are extremely pleased to announce that we have become Edexcel Centre approved - this means that we can now deliver NVQs to our students.

Edexcel is one of the leading awarding bodies in the UK, offering the full range of nationally recognised academic and vocational qualifications, such as Edexcel NVQs and BTEC Qualifications within the National Qualifications Framework, as well as BTEC Customised Qualifications.

Edexcel will provide us with assistance in the development and delivery of training programmes, which will lead to qualifications that are nationally recognised and respected by those within the industry.



creative learning opportunities

Hybrid Arts are launching a series of workshop opportunities for beginners, recently graduated or established artists wishing to learn new skills in art and creative technology. The following courses are available to book now:

Digital Art & Image

Photo Restoration

Life Drawing

Experimental Film Making

Documentary Film Making

Creative Web Skills

All subjects are available as a series of evening classes or as a daytime short course, and will be starting in July and August respectively. You will be studying with a professional practitioner, a specialist in their creative subject. Materials and Equipment are provided. Full details are available on our website.

www.hybridarts.co.uk



free respect yourself conference - places going fast!

The 2008 Respect Yourself Campaign is offering a fantastic opportunity for professionals who work directly with boys and young men to gain up to date information on contemporary issues that affect them. The "Don't Be a Dick": Working With Boys & Young Men Conference is FREE to those working within Warwickshire, and will include speakers and four interactive workshops, during which delegates will learn practical skills for one-to-one and group work, receive resources to use and share good practice for this target group. If you're interested in attending you'll need to be quick - **the closing date for bookings is Wednesday 11th June.**

Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

Thursday 3rd July 2008

9.00am - 4.30pm

Further information and booking:

catherinebyrne@warwickshire.gov.uk



www.warwickshire.gov.uk/respectyourself

virtual voices

Futurelab is running a workshop on Create-A-Scape (a concept previously featured in Hybrid Articles) at the Virtual Voices event, taking place on 10 July 2008 at Watershed, Bristol's harbourside media centre. The event will explore how we can develop young people's voices so they become the content creators and storytellers of the future, bringing the media industry together with young media makers and teachers to attempt to answer this question and others, such as:

For young people: How can you use the web to have a say about the things you care about? What might the media look like by the time you come to work in it?

For teachers: How can collaborations with media practitioners address the work-based learning demands of the new Creative and Media diplomas? How can students' existing skills with technology be used within the classroom?

For everyone: In a world of ever increasing sources of information, how can we make sure young people have the skills to discern bias and make informed contributions to debates and decision making? The event will include inspiring speakers, involving workshops and hands-on activities. See www.swscreen.co.uk/virtualvoices or sign up to the mailing list by e-mailing virtual.voices@swscreen.co.uk Tickets cost £50 each including lunch. To book call +44 (0)117 927 5100 www.watershed.co.uk There are some free places reserved for young people involved in producing media – if you'd like to attend but don't have the money e-mail virtual.voices@swscreen.co.uk



olympic corner

Does your organisation have an idea or a project which seems to fit the values and themes of the Cultural Olympiad? Voluntary Arts Network (VAN) have just published a new briefing providing guidance to voluntary arts groups wishing to be involved.

The Cultural Olympiad, established to showcase cultural activity in the lead up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, will be a four-year cultural celebration across the UK, to be launched over the weekend of 26 to 28 September 2008. The voluntary arts sector has an important role to play in the Cultural Olympiad by contributing to a UK wide cultural programme comprising hundreds of events and projects – a huge nationwide celebration, the likes of which has never happened at any previous Olympic Games or Paralympic Games. Large or small, inspirational, surprising, exciting and brand new projects and activities inspired by London 2012, from all sorts of people, from every region and country, will be featured in the programme. To download the VAN briefing pack visit www.voluntaryarts.org/2012



young people think they have a negative image

According to research from volunteering charity v, 70% of young people think the general public have a negative impression of them. This was despite 44 per cent of respondents saying they did positive things for their communities and 57 per cent saying they gave to or raised money for charities. Nearly half the young people surveyed said they thought their peers did things to justify the negative image the public had of them. Even though 37 per cent of young people said their appearance gave them a bad image, just 18 per cent said they would change the way they dressed or talked. The poll found the best way to improve the image of young people would be for older people to listen to younger people's opinions and involve them in decisions about communities.

peer mentoring pilot a success

The Formalised Peer Mentoring Pilot has been running in 180 secondary schools, with 3,600 pairs of students, where older pupils were invited to act as mentors for young students. The scheme was piloted after institutions expressed that they were looking for ways to bring improvements in attainment and reductions in bullying, truancy and exclusions. The initiative has seen a boost after an independent study concluded that a pilot scheme worked "very well" in its first year. The evaluation was carried out by Canterbury Christ Church University. Students also responded positively to the scheme, with both mentors and mentees reporting that it had been helpful. The researchers state: "Formalised Peer Mentoring is clearly popular and highly rated by staff and pupils." However, they also warn that mentoring must be part of a wider strategy to improve behaviour if gains are to be made in areas such as improving attendance.

cycling initiative takes off

Transport charity Sustrans has revealed that the number of pupils cycling to school has trebled in a year. This news is music to Hybrid Arts' ears as we anticipate the commencement of our Sonic Cycle Dance project. Sustran's annual Bike It project review shows schools taking part in the project have seen a boost in the number of young cyclists. Under the scheme, project officers work with groups of schools to make it easier for young people to cycle. The annual Bike to School Week took place earlier this month, and a resource pack produced by Sustrans can be downloaded from www.sustrans.org.uk/pedalpack

champion sound at the herbert

Coventry-based arts and media production company, Frontline AV, are presenting Champion Sound: Celebrating The History Of Coventry Sound Systems at The Herbert Gallery.

From the blues party to the Railway Club to the Police Ballroom...Coventry has a long, much loved, but mostly unsung history of Jamaican sound system culture. West Indian sound systems have had a major influence on mainstream popular music as we know it today. This exhibition is inspired by the making of the documentary film Champion Sound, which celebrates Coventry sound systems from the 1950s to the present, and features memories and photographs of the local people, sound crews, venues and record labels that made this city an important centre in the history of sound system culture.

03 May 2008 - 03 June 2008
Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 5.30pm
Sunday 12.00pm - 5.00pm
The Herbert Gallery, FREE.

www.championsound.org.uk/Site-Champion_Sound/History_of_Reggae_Sound_Systems.html

frontline av



is this the future..? *1

Welcome to the first in our series of potential futures explored in the Futures Review (please see Hybrid Articles April 2008), published as part of the Beyond Current Horizons programme.

Siemens/TNF Infratest

'Horizons 2020: A thought-provoking look at the future'

This was a project launched in 2004 by Siemens to examine the possible changes in the way Europeans will live their lives in 2020, presenting a pair of "communications scenarios", looking at how Europeans could live on a domestic and personal level, and the technologies that will support those lifestyles. They identify five key drivers underpinning the two scenarios: society, economy, environment and technology. They also identify 10 'megatrends', including increasing globalisation, fewer children, increasing relevance of virtual communities, half-life of technical knowledge and increasingly networked communications media.

Scenario 1: Equality, freedom and modesty

This scenario is characterised by an emphasis on social responsibility and contribution to community and a partial rejection of the instant material gratification promised by marketing. This renewed attention to the non-material aspects of life is partly a result of reduced income and increased financial burdens that sustain higher levels of government spending on medial research, education and infrastructure, and signals the increased importance of the private sector in service provision.

"In this world of economic pressure and renewed interest in life outside consumerism, knowledge is growing at such a rate that learners have little capacity for the assimilation of purely factual knowledge: instead, the focus is on generating knowledge, and knowing where to find answers.

Filtering information and acting on it are vital professional skills, along with experiential knowledge: those without these skills are at a disadvantage in the labour market. The primary educational objective is learning how to learn, with qualities such as independence, strong teamwork, communication skills and creativity a central part of the curriculum."

This scenario also explores the school environment, predicting that they will become more concentrated on the practicalities of fitting learners for work - making the transition from school to working life smoother than is currently the case. At regular professional development seminars, teachers learn motivational and leadership skills, alongside "therapeutic disciplines" to alleviate "deficiencies" in parental education. These teachers are often experts from industry and the public sector, working part-time, or retired professionals working voluntarily. Mainstream schools are increasingly professional and market-oriented, although there is a growing alternative sector catering to parents actively wishing to promote communication and creativity in their offspring.

Read about scenario 2 in next month's Hybrid Articles...

students and teachers explore the future

As a response to the Beyond Current Horizons initiative, the Educators and Young People session, held at the Think Tank earlier this year, aimed to identify which challenges from the Beyond Current Horizons programme they thought were most important to research further; identify other relevant challenges and discover what they wanted from education in 2025.

The event was attended by teachers, consultants, and students aged 12 to 17 from 24 schools around the country. The key findings from the day included:

- * Students and teachers envisage similar learning environments in the future, specifically they want: learning environments to continue to exist in a physical form; real people as teachers; similar technologies, for example: "I want more interactive whiteboards".

- * Students felt 'What we will need to know' was the most important challenge, as it addressed what they felt to be a key purpose of education - which is to enable them to get a job.

- * Both teachers and students felt the challenge 'Who will decide and provide what is taught' needed investigation; however, the discussions indicate it would be more productive to have a research programme into the curriculum in general as it needs to take account the responsibilities of the students and teachers as well as what it contains and why.

- * Despite the focus on social interactions, teachers and students think that the least important challenges include: 'How we interact with each other and information with and through technology', and 'How education should respond to external disasters'.

- * Ideal learning environments are social, have room to relax, are inspirational, and give students a limited degree of choice within, and ownership of, their education.

The full report can be downloaded from

www.beyondcurrenthorizons.org.uk/educators-and-young-people-full-report



technology, children, schools and families