

Moving On

Easing the transition from Primary to Secondary school



Ideal Portraits by Year 6 students made during visit to the Fitzwilliam

**A partnership project between Netherhall
Secondary School, seven primary schools and
The Fitzwilliam Museum**

Spring 2008– Spring 2009

The
Fitzwilliam
Museum

RENAISSANCE EAST OF ENGLAND
museums for changing lives

The Moving On Project was designed to support children moving from primary to secondary school and to foster closer links between a local secondary school and its feeder primary schools.



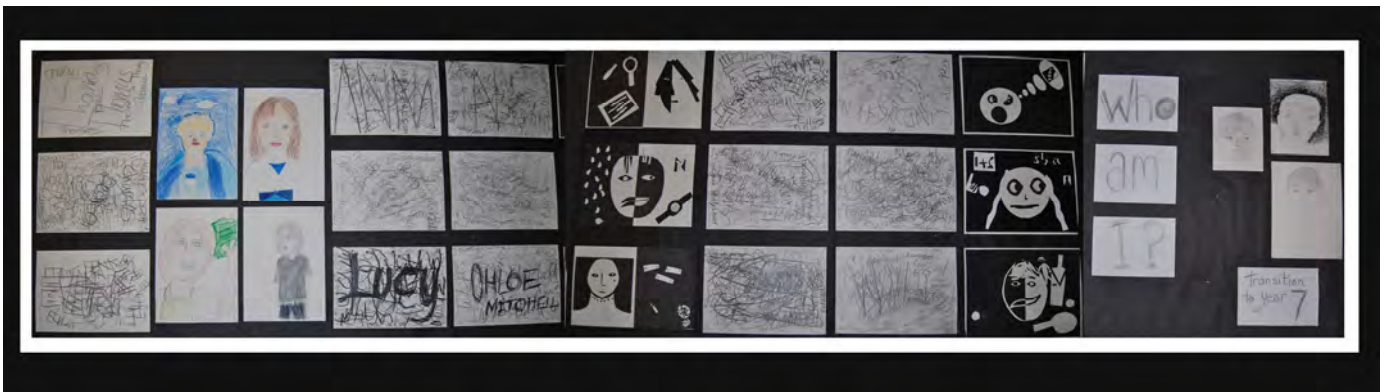
Posing for portraits in the studio



Year 6 Summer Visits

In the Summer Terms of 2008 more than 250 Year 6 pupils from nine classes visited the museum with their class teachers. Pupils looked at a range of images of people in the collection and explored issues of identity, asking questions about who they are and how they wished to be seen.

They then worked in the education studio to create their own ideal portraits depicting different aspects of their own identity both real and imagined. Each session was also attended by members of Netherhall Art Department who brought with them small groups of Year 10 ambassadors to work alongside the Year 6 students.



Display of art work after the museum visit at Netherhall School



Sharing ideas in the gallery session



Visitors to exhibition at Netherhall School

Year 7 Follow Up

In the Autumn term the Netherhall Art Department exhibited some of the studio work from the museum visit and some of the follow up work from the primary schools at the Year 7 Open Evening. Pupils then took part in a cross-curricular project exploring the theme of 'Identity' yet further through the different Arts subjects.

In the Spring Term of 2009 the 170 pupils Year 7 pupils returned to the museum. They explored the theme of 'The Bigger Picture,' moving the focus from them as individual to looking broader context of the individual within society. The group then looked at a selection of work which included Renaissance story telling, a Victorian morality painting, an Impressionist landscape and an Anthony Gormley figure sculpture suspended from the roof of the courtyard.

Evaluation and Outcomes

The majority of those who took part in the project said they wanted to see more of the collection, make more art and visit the museum again. Many of the students and teachers who took part expressed surprise at how the art they looked at communicated to them and made them think about themselves in a different way. A selection of the children's comments reveals how they personally engaged with the art they looked at and the activities they took part in.

Feedback from staff from both the Secondary and Primary schools has revealed many positive outcomes in terms of PSHE. There were many examples of individual children responding unexpectedly or emotionally through their artwork and their responses to artworks in the gallery. The Year 7 tutors spoke of how useful it was to have the opportunity to observe the students interacting as a group outside of school. What they observed made them rethink the way in which they had grouped the pupils within school.

Year 6 feedback

This morning has made me think about... how we think of ourselves and to see what other people are like...how everyone is different in their own way...how many different ways there are to express feelings in art ...more art and more pictures I could do and draw...my personality and how people think of me...myself and how I feel...art and how I could do better at it...different ways you can use art to express yourself... who I am

I felt...happy I enjoyed myself. I would recommend it to anyone!... welcomed by the staff and Netherhall students...really excited when we were doing the art and I was proud of my picture...more proud of myself for trying my hardest in drawing a picture

I was surprised by...how much I learnt in a short time...how artists do things you don't expect...the huge amount of things we did, saw and learnt... all the pictures and the drawings. I didn't know a museum could be fun.

Year 6 Teacher comments

I was surprised by the diversity of the children's responses and how all abilities of children engaged... It really helped them to reflect on themselves as individuals and how they want to come across.

Gallery teaching was very interesting and challenged the children to think ... All pupils seemed to engage with the activities, some on a particularly emotional level.

Feedback from teachers after INSET

It's so wonderful to be in an environment that stimulates discussion and involves so many subject areas to broaden children's understanding

It was great to be 'taught' to think creatively for the sake of it

Thank you for offering us the time and space to restore our "creative" batteries. We all need stimuli like this.

Year 7 feedback

I enjoyed the visit, it was interesting ...I enjoyed discussing the stories and the message behind some of the paintings...I felt good because it was a different experience

The Fitzwilliam Museum would like to thank Jacqueline Williams, Nicola Smith, Cathryn Goryn and staff and students from Netherhall Secondary School, Cherry Hinton Community Junior School, Colville Primary School, Fawcett Primary School, Morley Memorial Primary School, Queen Edith Community Primary School, St Phillips Church of England Primary School and The Spinney Primary School.

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**Kate Noble, Assistant Education Officer
The Fitzwilliam Museum**

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