

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 19 APRIL 2018

‘Employable Me’ Engagement Event – 12.02.18

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Angus Council receives financial support annually from Education Scotland (Creative Learning Network Fund). Last session (2016/17) this funding was used to facilitate ‘Let’s Talk Creativity’ events for schools and the wider community.
- 1.2 Following two engagement events held in December 2016 a number of pupils were identified from participating schools to act as ambassadors. Our Creative Sparks’ remit is to “ignite creativity across Angus”. We also identified 3 schools (Friockheim, Tannadice and Grange) to engage in a Creativity Test of Change, to demonstrate how using creative approaches can have a positive impact on pupils’ engagement and learning experiences. Friockheim and Tannadice have both been nominated for the ‘Creativity Across Learning’ Scottish Education Award 2018 as a result of their work.
- 1.3 When submitting our bid for funding (2017/18) it was decided that our activity should focus on Creativity through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

2. ‘Employable Me’ Engagement Events – February and April 2018

- 2.1 We organised an event called ‘Employable Me’ to which all Angus schools were invited to send a small number of pupils. This took place on Monday 12th February 2018 at Forfar Community Campus. A total of 92 P6/7 pupils from 14 primary schools took part, along with accompanying teachers. Our learning intention was to explore Creativity and Employability skills through exciting workshop activities, paying close attention to the STEM subjects, and to use as a context for learning the new V&A Museum of Design in Dundee.
- 2.2 The event started with an excellent keynote speech from Susan Whyte, Schools Development Officer from V&A Dundee. The pupils then went on to experience exciting hands-on workshops delivered by structural engineers from Arup Engineering, games developers from the BIOME Collective in Dundee, Linsey McIntosh, an interior designer from DJCAD (the pupils designed a ‘home for the future’) and Tracey Smith, a freelance illustrator (her workshop featured a V&A pop-up book). All pupils had the opportunity to experience all four workshops. The event was supported by a number of visits from our councillors. Four Creative Sparks from Maisondieu Primary School worked with Susan Whyte (V&A) on a workshop where they considered the many jobs/careers that have been involved with the development of the V&A Dundee, as well as the Creativity and Employability skills associated with each job. They presented their work to the entire group later in the day, ably demonstrating their team work and leadership skills.
- 2.3 Throughout the day the pupils were immaculately behaved, and fully engaged in creative activity. We have engaged every school with pre and post event consultation based on the Career Education Standard 2015. The feedback from schools has confirmed that the event was a huge success, and will inform our next steps.
- 2.4 A re-run of the event is scheduled for 3rd May 2018. This will accommodate the 11 schools, including 2 secondary schools that were unsuccessful in securing places for the February event. Demand for this event far exceeded expectation

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