

# MOS/AiG **Arts in the Community**

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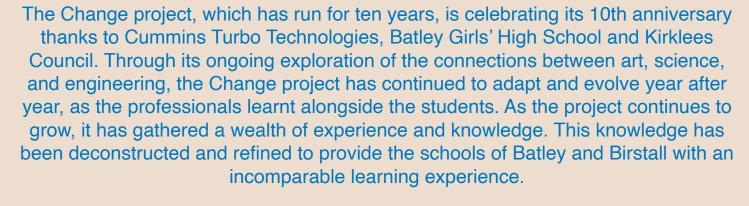
# Arts in the Community

Founded in 1998, MOSAIC is a Batley-based community arts organisation and registered charity (number 1089445). At Mosaic, our mission is to bring people together through the arts. We achieve this by offering exciting, innovative, and accessible arts projects to the residents of Batley and Birstall.

Since the start of the program, Mosaic has provided a variety of unique opportunities for the local community through various projects, especially our annual Change project. Following our successful partnership with Batley Girls' High School and Cummins Turbo Technologies, Mosaic has been able to sustain a regular programme of work with schools and families throughout the Batley and Birstall area, furthering our aim to provide new learning opportunities for both adults and students.



In 2012, the Change project began providing enriching visual arts experiences to schools in Batley and Birstall. In recent years, our partnership with Cummins Turbo Technologies has inspired the project to focus on making STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) exciting and accessible. The project uses a creative methodology to enable young people to enjoy new artistic and scientific experiences. This includes the opportunity to interact in new engineering and science experiments, develop niche artistic skills, and learn about possible careers in the arts and STEM fields. In addition to being inspired as artists and scientists, participants will also discover the many connections between the two.



A total of 18 groups from 15 schools across Batley and Birstall participated in this year's Change Project. This is the largest number of participants yet, at 540! Between March and June, we commissioned five specialist artists to conduct workshops in school. A variety of science topics were covered in this year's workshops, including: habitats, the environment, climates, ecosystems, and saving the world.

During this year's program, we focused on tackling some of the larger challenges facing the creative and engineering industries today. These challenges include gender inequalities, the under-representation of individuals from minority backgrounds and age bias. The Change project recognises the importance of diversity and inclusion, and the impact this can have on the choices participants make when choosing their career paths. It was our goal this year to build a diverse group of artists and engineers that both adult and student participants could identify with.

Additionally, we are taking steps to eliminate socio-economic barriers within the creative and engineering sector by continuing to support and deliver the Change project to schools located within North Kirklees. We will continue to put in place steps to ensure that those with specific needs can access the work as part of our effort to be inclusive.

## **Meet the Schools**

Field Lane Junior, Infant & Nursery School
Batley Grammar School
Lydgate Junior and Infant School
Birstall Primary Academy
Hyrstmount Junior School
Manorfield Infant & Nursery School
Carlton Junior and Infant School
Batley Girls' High School
Upper Batley High School
Healey Junior, Infant & Nursery School
Windmill CoE Primary School
Warwick Road Primary School
Mill Lane Primary School
Fieldhead Primary Academy

## **Meet the Artists**

Helaina Sharpley Abigail Barker Iqra Rafiq Andy Singleton Saba Rifat

## **Helaina Sharpley**

and

Field Lane Junior, Infant & Nursery School
Lydgate Junior and Infant School
Upper Batley High School
Windmill CoE Primary School

Helaina Sharpley is an award-winning wirework artist from West Yorkshire who exhibits nationally and internationally.

Working from her studio at The West Yorkshire Print
Workshop in Mirfield, she creates intricate and elegant
wirework wall pieces that cross the boundaries between
drawing and sculpture. Initially inspired by the rituals and
etiquette of tea drinking of days gone by, early work focussed
on chintzy china cups and Victorian architecture. A variety
of commissions have led to new explorations of rural
landscapes and British flora, developing, and pushing new
wire-working skills.



## **Field Lane Junior, Infant & Nursery School**

Following our investigations into the structure and function of plants, we worked with the wonderful wire artist Helaina. She encouraged our children to be creative and produce their own imagined flowers. Helaina inspired both the children and their parents to be artists for the morning. She showed us how to manipulate the wire, which was easier than we all thought. We then chose beautiful coloured tissue paper to decorate our petals and leaves. It was very satisfying to quickly turn our ideas into reality. We all agreed that the flowers looked stunning, especially when we added the beads. With Helaina's expert help we then moved on to creating butterflies and bees. This was harder than the flowers but again worth the effort as we were all very proud of our beautiful creations. It has been inspirational to work with a real artist, who was so warm, open and generous with her skills and time. We have all grown because of our involvement with the change project and take on challenges more easily now, knowing that when we work together we can achieve anything, even wire sculptures.





## **Lydgate Junior and Infant School**

It all began with Helaina, our wire sculpture artist, discussing her work with the children. As she shared examples of her art and showed pictures of her studio, many of us were inspired to become artists in the future!

It was then time for the artwork to commence! We took inspiration from the wild flowers that we have growing in our school grounds and the local area. Using wire and tissue paper we created petals for lots of different flowers. Beads and wire were used to create the parts of the flower that hold the pollen. In Science, we learnt about how brightly coloured flowers attract insects and this leads to pollination. Finally, we created lots of insects such as bees, butterflies and dragonflies.

"We enjoyed looking at the artist's work and loved her studio.
We want to be wire artists when we grow up!"



"The artist was so friendly and the work was so fun!

It was such a great opportunity.

I'm grateful as I know lots of schools don't get a chance to use wire!"





## **Upper Batley High School**

At Upper Batley High School, we looked at entomology and the different material properties of wire. The learners started by creating continuous line drawings of insects, considering the overall structure. They were then introduced to wire and how it can be shaped to mould around their drawings. The group learnt how to use wire cutters and pliers safely to create their art work. As the learners became more confident with their new media, they started to create bigger insect structures with a partner, considering different thicknesses of wire and using contrast colour to make their insect more detailed and eye-catching. As a final activity, we invited some of the learners' parents to take part in the wire workshop. The parents got an opportunity to see the amazing work the learners had produced and got to make a small wire insect to take home.



"I never knew what wire cutters and pliers were."

## **Windmill CoE Primary School**

The children looked at the basic structure of the Solar System, the planets' positions, shape, size and colour. Their first activity was to create an articulated orrery, from wire and papier-mache, which aimed to share the principles of how the Sun, Moon and Earth orbited around one another to explain day and night. This gave the children an introduction to the art of wirework and how to use wire cutters and pliers effectively and safely.

The children then harnessed these skills further and in small groups took ownership of making a planet. They worked meticulously to realise a 3D version by choosing a relevant colour palette, weaving and intertwining different thicknesses of wire to create a spherical shape.

They also included specific features on their planets such as gas clouds. As a final activity, parents worked alongside children to create wire stars.

They independently utilised their new creative skills-base to produce personalised models with their names and beads interwoven in the structure. The planets and stars will be suspended from a tree in the school playground to form an outdoor art installation of the Solar System for the whole community to admire.

"I learnt different wire techniques."



## **Abigail Barker**

and

Fieldhead Primary Academy Hyrstmount Junior School Batley Grammar School Birstall Primary Academy

Abigail is a practising artist specialising in mosaic, based in Liversedge. Abigail's workshops explore a range of different media and across all age groups. With a background in art and education, Abigail has a wide variety of skills to draw upon when planning and facilitating workshops and collaborative projects within the community.

Creating a safe, friendly and accessible space for people to create is at the heart of Abigail's work with the community. Abigail has designed and delivered hundreds of sessions, mainly with adults and primarily for seniors. During these sessions there have been many successful collaborative big projects, including mosaic murals and large-scale paintings.



"I loved making the mosaics. It was lots of fun."



## **Fieldhead Primary Academy**

The children worked with the artist Abigail Barker to create a mosaic of an underwater habitat. The children were taught how to create their mosaics using tweezers and mosaic tiles. The children worked collaboratively to create seaweed and various animals that live underwater.

The children and their parents enjoyed working together to create the underwater mosaic and we can't wait to see it on display. We are all so proud of the children's determination and team work.



"Using the tweezers was hard at first but my fish looks really good."

## **Hyrstmount Junior School**

Alongside our Adaptations topics in science in which we learnt about the habitat of underwater animals and how they adapt to them, we worked with the lovely Abigail to create a stunning mosaic piece. This consisted of the children using tweezers to stick a range of miniature colourful mosaic tiles onto a small piece of card to create an image of fish or other underwater plants.

This was tricky at first but the children were able to practise a growth mindset, as well as their fine motor skills as we progressed through our sessions. The sessions were fantastic as we worked calmly with a live-stream of the deep underwater in Australia where we got to see real underwater scenes before our eyes! All their hard work resulted in beautiful, colourful mosaics which looked as though they would jump out at us - and some very proud children! We cannot wait to see them all joined together as one masterpiece!









## **Batley Grammar School**

We combined the main year topic and the science topic for the workshop. The project focused mainly on the plants and animals of the rainforest. Abigail showed the children a range of pictures of different types of mosaic to inspire them. We then considered how the mosaic could be used to depict a scene from the rainforest encompassing all that the children had learned during the topic from the various plants to the animals living in each layer.

Abigail designed the most impressive picture for the children to create using the mosaic technique. Initially, each child had their own smaller picture such as a leaf, cacao pod, flower or insect, and then groups of children worked on the larger animals including a cheetah and sloth. The children developed their fine motor skills using the tweezers to place each piece of tile onto the picture. They also learned the art of patience as building the picture piece by piece involved great time and care.



The topic for this group was pollinators so the design of a flower garden was developed. The students started to learn the process of mosaic by following the template of a leaf on fibreglass mesh.

We used 5mm ceramic tiles and the learners used tweezers to place their tiles on the template. Once they finished their leaf, they went on to create a flower, using their technical skills gained from creating the leaf to great effect.

Several children finished their flowers before the end of the 3 sessions and opted to make a bee. These were continued in the parents' workshop, with the addition of butterflies, to create all the aspects of a thriving flower garden.





## **Saba Rifat**

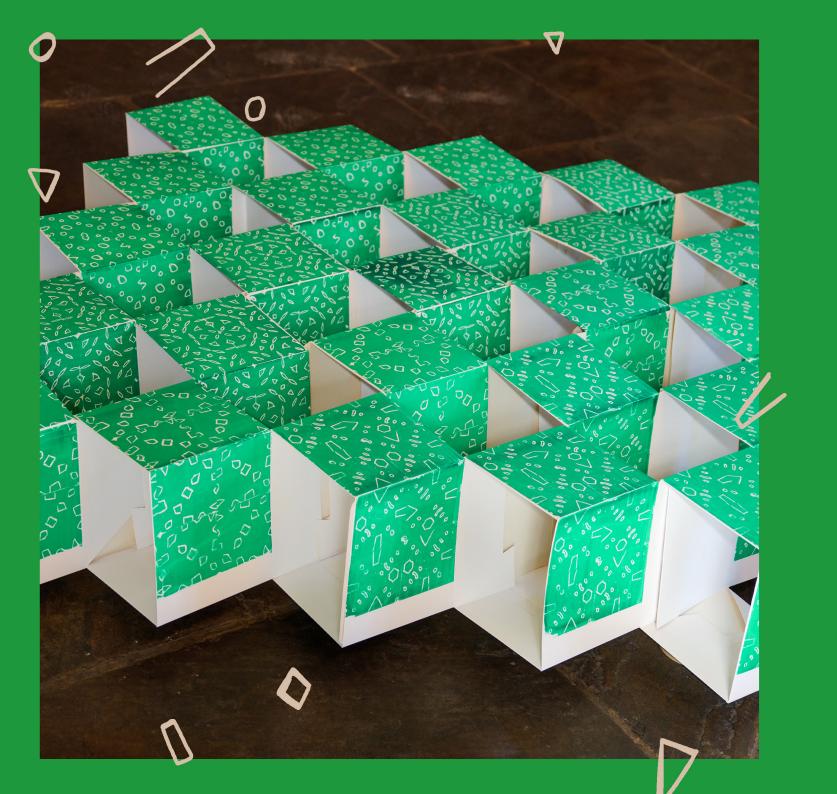
and

Hyrstmount Junior School Manorfield Infant & Nursery School Windmill CoE Primary School

Saba's work includes Drawings, Printmaking, Installations and Murals, inspired by ubiquitous Geometric Shapes observed in Science and Nature.

Many of the compositions Saba creates have a close reference to historical Islamic Patterns, comprising of geometric divisions, forms and colours that use visual techniques drawn from its rich traditional arts culture.

These patterns transcend time and place, as in the structure of a snowflake, or a honeycomb which have exhibited an underlying hexagonal proportion since the beginning of time and will continue to do so till the end of time, and are based on Creation principles of proportion, balance and harmony.



## **Hyrstmount Junior School**

As the project was based on the 'Solar System', inspiration was taken from the pattern Venus portrays when it orbits around Earth, displaying a 5-petalled rose known as 'Flower of Life' which is also seen as pentagram.

During the workshops, we explored the principles of developing endless geometric patterns through concepts of symmetry, polyhedra and tessellation through practical, hands-on activities including: kirigami (the art of folding and cutting paper into decorative patterns), tiling or tessellating squares (decorated with triangles) to make beautiful, interesting and endless patterns and, colouring, cutting, constructing and tessellating polyhedra.

The pupils focused on decorating and constructing pentagonal pyramids which related to the topic which were collated into one large installation piece.



## **Manorfield Infant & Nursery School**

We explored patterns that occur in nature such as honeycomb, butterflies and zebra stripes. We had a go at drawing these patterns. We then used kirigami - which is the Japanese art of paper cutting - to create more patterns to use as a design for a tile.

The children were amazed with how much they could do with paper and scissors! We explored repeating this using tiling and which shapes are easy to tile and which don't repeat so well. We used our designs to create tiles and printed with them using ink. This will be used to create a bigger sculpture of all our work for the exhibition.





"We are all looking forward to going to see our artwork and other school's work in the art gallery soon! We hope to see you there too!"



## **Windmill CoE Primary**

Children were introduced to the concept that geometry can be observed throughout Science and Nature to help explain its shape and form. In their Science topic Marvellous Mixtures, children have explored the principles of ever changing structures in solids and liquids, for example, dissolving and evaporation.

Firstly, they designed intricate geometric paper tiles which were then 'changed' into 3D structures. To develop this idea further, children and parents created kaleidograms which moved to represent the reversible changes in the structure of mixtures, for example solid-liquid-solid.

The children were able to hone their fine motor skills and explore the world of pattern and Mathematics as a form of art. As a final piece of work, a large scale kaleidogram has been commissioned.

This will be placed in our playground and is an interactive piece of artwork which children will be able to use.

#### "I liked the illusions"



"It was fun and interesting"



## **Andy Singleton**

and

Batley Grammar School
Carlton Junior and Infant School
Batley Girls' High School
Healey Junior, Infant & Nursery School

Andy Singleton is a paper artist and illustrator based in Wakefield, England. He studied Animation with Illustration at Manchester Metropolitan University. His work is an exploration of the natural and manmade world through intricate paper cuttings, paper sculpture, hand drawn illustrations and large scale installations.

Andy has produced work for a variety of clients, including: Crafts Council, Penhaligon's, Burberry, Ted Baker, Harrods, Liberty London, Hermés, Kensington Palace, Playstation, Manchester Art Gallery, The Hepworth and The Beautiful Meme.

## **Batley Grammar School**

Prior to the project, students studied light in their science lessons, and this set the theme for the workshop with the very talented artist, Andy Singleton. We were so excited to meet Andy as we'd done our own research on his work and were blown away with the paper dragon he made.

Not only that, we were amazed that he had worked for high-end clients such as Hermes and Harrods. The first session started with Andy introducing his work and showing some of the projects he'd worked on. He then went on to show how he achieved the intricate designs by cutting with a scalpel.

We initially found this skill very tricky, but, after cutting a few premade templates, we got the grasp of it. We then went on to learn that paper could easily be manipulated and turned into 3D models by scoring and folding. We took these skills and produced our own abstract cuts and exposed them onto cyanotype paper which only worked with sunlight.

For our final piece we took inspiration from wildflowers and leaves where we joined all the large cut-outs and arranged them onto A2 paper that was painted with a photosensitive paint. All the forms we produced during the sessions would be used as part of the final installation. We are looking forward to seeing the final piece.



## "There is so much more that you can do with paper than I had ever imagined."

#### **Carlton Junior and Infant School**

We began by exploring a range of habitats and discussing the shapes and structures that could be identified within these.

When introduced to origami, we noticed that paper can be manipulated in many different ways to create shapes and 3D pieces by folding, cutting and scoring in a variety of ways.

We took inspiration from living things to create individual honeycomb cells before coming together as a class to assemble a large scale honeycomb structure. We then discussed habitats around us and decided to focus on trees as the habitat for our project.

We developed the art of folding and scoring paper when we created branches and birds that will be joined together to produce our final paper model of the tree with its inhabitants.

"Our artist has inspired me to use paper to create work linked to other topics that we are learning about." "This project has helped me develop my fine motor skills and taught me how to use everyday equipment in different ways."

## **Batley Girls' High School**

Batley Girls High School students were looking at chemical reactions and natural forms and Batley Grammar School were looking at Light. For these two schools we decided to mainly focus on the skill of paper cutting (creating images through cut paper) and using them as templates to expose them onto paper through a chemical process called Cyanotype.

The process involves the mixing of two chemicals to create a UV light sensitive solution that is then applied to paper. By laying objects onto the paper in natural light, the process exposes the silhouette of whatever object is on the paper. The paper is then washed to stop the chemical process, fixing the image to the paper.

The process of Cyanotype was created during the industrial revolution, mainly to transfer technical drawings and replicate them. This is where the word Blueprint originated from, as the process creates a beautiful blue colour when washed and dried.

We explored this process in two ways, firstly through cutting paper images of natural forms and experimental patterns to lie on the paper. The second process was to use natural forms such as leaves and flowers collected from nature to create compositions that were then exposed to the UV light.

The final stage was to take all the elements created through this process and compose them together to form a collective artworks on display.



## **Healey Junior, Infant & Nursery School**

We used the idea of shapes found in habitats to create individual hexagons made by folding a long strip of card. Then the individual hexagons were stuck together, taking up a whole table.

Then we pushed the tables together so we could create one huge honeycomb blanket. This was a lovely wow moment for the whole class - working individually and then collectively as a class. In the following sessions, the children moved on to using craft knives to score card and make folds on card much more precisely.

We created some birds and bugs using templates. The children were amazed to see how the sheet of card came to life once they started folding.

"I really liked the part when we scored card to make trees and leaves."

"I loved it when we all worked together and made birds and bugs. It was awesome."



"I really liked the part when we scored card to make trees and leaves."



## Iqra Rafiq

and

Warwick Road Primary School
Mill Lane Primary School

and textile artist and has a degree in Fashion Production, Styling and Promotion. Iqra leads and delivers art projects and activities in the local area teaching hand stitching, embroidery, weaving and other crafts.

Iqra takes inspiration from her surroundings observing nature, architecture and other interesting shapes and patterns.



## **Warwick Road Primary School**

The children used a range of images of animals and plants found in the savannah or the deciduous climate to design and create a puppet. The children carefully selected the material to best represent the animal or plant and cut it out with accuracy. They then used fabric pens and bondaweb to ensure the puppet was aesthetically pleasing.

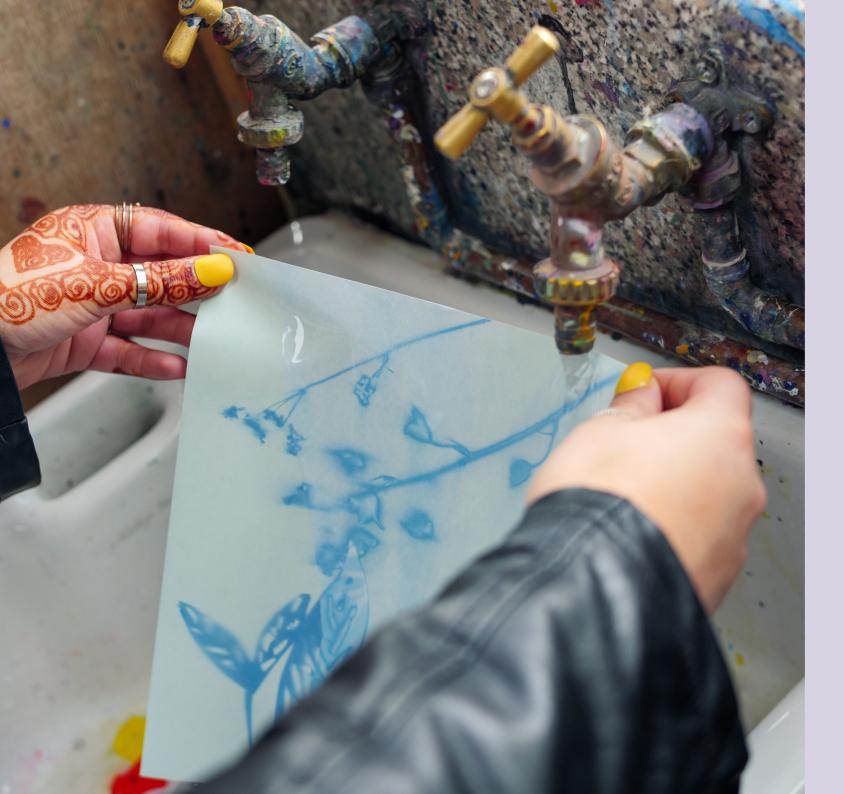
The children also learnt how to weave and created pieces of work which represented either the savannah or the deciduous climate. They used yarn and cardboard to create a loom and then wove using ribbon, string and fabric. The children carefully selected colours and textures to best represent the climate they were assigned.

Overall, the children were exposed to different techniques and materials and the project allowed them to be creative whilst learning about various climates and their associated animals and plants.



**Warwick Road Primary School** A "I enjoyed creating and decorating the puppets." "It has inspired me to become better at sewing." "I liked when we learnt how to weave."



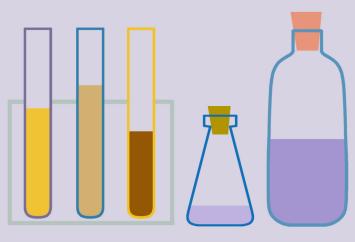


#### **Virtual Science Fair**

From potions to parachuting paperclips, magic took over the screens of the primary schools for this year's science fair. In the past, primaries attended a series of workshops hosted by secondary schools, where they could tour science labs and conduct lab-based experiments; however, due to Covid-19 it was not possible this year.

Our response to the pandemic included the development of virtual interactive science fair films for the participating schools. The science kits we prepared and supplied to schools provided students with the opportunity to conduct experiments alongside the scientists in the film. We also provided the teachers conducting the session with carefully prepared resource packs to accompany the film.

The virtual science fair films and resource packs can be found on the Change Project website, Changeproject.co.uk.



**Cummins Turbo Technologies Aspirations Session** 

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Cummins Buddies were unable to attend the artists' workshop and provide the engineering component as they have traditionally done in the past.

As an alternative, the Cummins Buddies conducted their own aspirations workshop for parents and students this year. In this workshop, the Cummins Buddies informed the parents and students of the many ways in which a career in engineering can be pursued. In the workshop, they discussed everything from Cummins Power Women to Cummins meets Mythbusters to inspire the parents and the young engineers of tomorrow.

Covid -19 restrictions led us to introduce these workshops, but the response has been tremendous, and we are already getting requests from parents regarding future dates.

> "The computer told me when I grow up, I'm going to be a robotics engineer. So, I'm looking forward to that"



## **High School Visit**

This year we had the wonderful opportunity of hosting a high school trip at West Yorkshire Print Workshop. The students explored biology, physics, and design technology through a day of printing and visiting the print workshop. Students explored Gelli Plate printing - a form of monoprinting without a press. After learning the basics of how to use a Gelli plate, students printed with leaves, foliage and plant materials to study the leaf structure, using plants that have adapted to their environment.

They then went on to use their Gelli Plates to print onto sticky back plastic using geometry and geometric patterns to make sun catchers to see how light waves produce images through the layered transparent print. The students then used their knowledge of gelli plate printing to design a printed paper aeroplane, making prototypes and considering aerodynamics to test how far their planes could fly!

Students also had the opportunity to have a short tour of the workshop to find out about the printing presses and how pressure and forces work to produce prints.

"this is the best trip ever"







"Printing is definitely the type of art that has unlocked my talent and hopefully my potential, I love it"





## **Change 2022 Exhibition**

The Change Project took over the Oakwell Hall & Country Park Barn this year, transforming the barn into an unforgettable immersive experience celebrating art, science and our planet. Throughout the room, stuffed puppet wildlife roamed the floors, aquatic mosaics adorned the walls, bees pollinated wall flowers, flying paper birds soared from beam to beam, and a solar system twinkled overhead.

All participating classes were invited to the exhibition to visit their work, as well as to celebrate the other schools' work. When the children entered the exhibition, they were wonderstruck, but as their amazement turned into curiosity and excitement, they gradually filled with pride as they discovered the work they had created and its significance. As a final well done and farewell, the children received pocketbooks and badges.

It was important to us to keep the exhibition in the Birstall and Batley as we wanted to extend our reach to the surrounding communities and spread creativity and opportunity within our region, which made the park the perfect choice.

"The effort that has gone into every aspect of the Project shone tonight. The work produced by all schools is beautiful and the way it has been exhibited truly shows great care and thought."









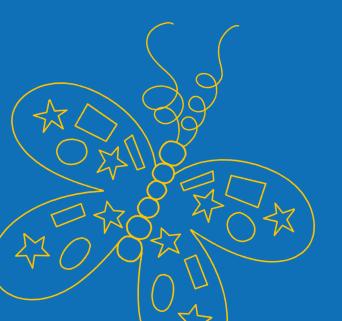
## Thank you Cummins Turbo Technologies

The communities of Batley and Birstall received such wonderful opportunities this year thanks to our project funders, Cummins Turbo Technologies, for which we extend our deepest appreciation.

Not only has their financial aid enabled us to facilitate such a wide program of activities for the students and parents this year, but the incredibly supportive and dedicated team of buddies at Cummins allowed us to offer new and unique opportunities to the children and residents of Batley and Birstall.

Thank you from the Mosaic Association and all the schools that took part in Change 2022.

Find out more about Cummins Turbo Technologies at Cummins.com or Changeproject.co.uk



## **Thank you Creative Scene**

Creative Scene is proud to have been involved in developing and delivering the Change project this year, through our Producer and Weston Jerwood Fellow, Amy Foster. We know that the artists selected to work with the schools have had a stimulating time too, bringing their creativity to all the workshops to make STEM subjects accessible to young people- and unlocking the students' own creativity and imagination in the process.

As the Arts Council England's Creative People and Places programme for Kirklees, Creative Scene makes great creative things happen for and with people, places and communities. While many young people face an uncertain future, we believe that developing their creativity enables them to have the best chances to access employment and education, and supports their mental health and well-being. The stunning exhibition of their work also brings their creativity out into the wider community of Kirklees.

Since 2014 Creative Scene has developed a wide body of work with events and performances placed on streets and in parks, in community halls, pubs and social centres, with stories projected onto buildings, operas sung from church halls, and dance bringing to life the market squares. Our small team of experienced arts professionals work with a wide range of creatives of all kinds, to create new experiences that inspire, stimulate and intrigue. If you are interested in Partnering or commissioning us, please do get in touch - or hello@ creatvscene.org.uk or visit our web site www.creativescene.org.uk

## A special thank you to:

The Change 2022 Artists: Helaina Sharpley, Saba Rifat,
Andy Singleton, Iqra Rafiq and, Abigail Barker
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Film and Media
Exhibition Installers: David, Rohan
and Julia from Hang my Art
Illustrations and Marketing: Carly Gledhill
Graphic Designer: Marnie Simpsons & Megan Wright from
Upper Batley High School
Batley Multi Academy Trust, Batley Girls' High School
& Upper Batley High School
BBEST

We would like to express our appreciation for the support we have received from:

Kirklees Council

Oakwell Hall and Team West Yorkshire Print Workshop

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank: Sam Vickers, Kate Seaman, Melanie Bowen, Alan Brown, and David Cooper.

Without you, the project would not have been possible.

And lastly a huge thank you to all the children, parents and staff from the schools who participated in the Change project this year.



In closing, the Mosaic Association would like to thank everyone for coming to celebrate the incredible work produced this year.



