

## THE ARTS

In an educational climate obsessed with measuring results, comparing data and preparing students for future employment, it can be difficult to find value in an arts education. This is particularly the case when most students will not pursue a career in an arts industry. There is no question that school should prepare students for the workforce, however this aim alone is quite limiting. A quality education should enable individuals and communities to have meaningful lives now and in the future. I believe an arts education has much to contribute towards this goal.

The benefits of an arts education have been widely documented. The ATC Arts curriculum comprises Music, Drama and Visual Art which are related, but distinct art forms. Each of these subjects teaches specialist discipline knowledge, skills and understanding. Research has shown that greater understanding in a discipline results in greater enjoyment and appreciation. An arts education leads students to a deeper understanding of themselves and the world they live in. Specific art forms can have deep personal meaning to individuals and shape their identity. The following is a British student describing the personal meaning of their arts education.

*"I'm reminded daily that taking GCSE dance was the best decision I ever made. While everyone complains about the subjects their parents forced them into, I am in the dance studio every lunchtime. Dance gets me into school. Dance gives me something to pour my head and heart into. It gives me a feeling of belonging, creativity, security and freedom."*<sup>1</sup>

Evidence also suggests that learning to think in one area can enrich thinking in another. Drawing on a variety of contexts across age levels, studies indicate students with an arts education significantly achieve higher academic standards compared to those students without an arts education. Specifically, areas such as language development, numeracy, spatial awareness, intelligence and social emotional development are enhanced. Students also benefit from enriched attitudes to learning such as striving for accuracy, attention to fine detail, perseverance, questioning the status quo, imagination, responsible risk taking, humour, listening with empathy, and innovation.

The impact of an arts education extends beyond individuals, and plays a major role in the development and expression of communities and culture. Whole school singing at ATC is a powerful example of our community coming together as one

in worship and to celebrate College pride. The beginning band day on Tuesday is another example of boys coming together working towards a common musical goal.

At ATC, all boys have a plethora of opportunities available to pursue a broad variety of arts interests and passions. In addition to the Class Music, Drama and Visual Art curriculum, students can also be involved in a large complimenting co-curricular program including one-to-one music lessons and ensembles, small group speech and drama classes, and lunch time art club. Not only may these opportunities prepare students for a possible career in an arts industry, but are also meaningful in their lives right now and prepare them for a life time of participation in the arts.



Kyle (6T) recreates himself

Over the year, I wish to take the opportunity through our newsletter to showcase some of the amazing work ATC students do in The Arts. In the meantime, if your son wishes to get involved or extend his involvement in our arts program at the College, please do not hesitate to [contact me](#).



ATC beginning band students come together to make music for the first time on Tuesday.

MR JASON GOOPY | Head of The Arts

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2016/jan/31/career-arts-gcse-dance-stop-the-stem-subject-snobbery>

## Cu Chullain Awards - Junior School - Week 5

Year 4 : Dan Milligan, Josh Snyman, Jack Ryan, Xavier Kits

Year 5 : Harry McAvoy, Alex Prain, Henry Oghanna, Ethan Casey

Year 6 : Sam Loch, Christian Dean, Joe Cannon, Aidan Osbourne