

Largs Academy Art & Design
Grant from Kelburn Wind Farm Community Fund

Largs Academy Art & Design Residential Summer trip to Arran . Monday 2nd July – Friday 6th July 2012



Art Teachers Mrs Dobson and Mrs Simpson accompanied 25 pupils to Arran for the first week of the summer holidays. They were also joined by Michael Durning: West Kilbride painter and Rachel Goldie: textile design student and former Largs academy pupil and home economics teacher Miss Campbell.

The trip was funded in the following way:

Pupil contribution: £3278

Wind farm contribution: £2000

Photography Competition money: £400

PTA: £578.63 (pottery moulds and drawing boards).

Each pupil received a pack of materials which included :

Pupil material packs:

Watercolours

Paint brushes

Rubber and sharpener

Sharpie Pen

Colour pens

Colour pencils

Chalk pastels

Oil Pastels

Sketching pencils

Sketch books

Plastic folders

This pack was provided for the pupils to use during the trip and to keep to support their study later.



The label on the pack informed the pupils that the pack was sponsored by the Wind Farm community trust and Sean Reese's prize money

The trip was based at the Arran outdoor education centre. The centre provided us with accommodation and meals and also travel around the island. We were accompanied by outdoor centre staff who took us to suitable locations around the island where we were able to draw and take photos.



Fighting the midges and the rain with the outdoor centre's gear.



We made the most of the weather, collecting Some excellent images of raindrops.



And yes it was dry enough at times to draw outside!

Avril Paton

On the first night we had a very informative talk from Avril Paton. Avril is a very successful and well known Scottish Artist who comes from Arran and now lives there. Avril is probably best known for her Glasgow tenement paintings. She talked to the pupils about her life as an artist and how she became an artist. This well presented and inspirational talk was fully appreciated by both staff and pupils. Avril declined to take a fee from us allowing us to use our funds for materials.



Textile workshop

Rachael Goldie, textile design student and former Largs Academy pupil joined us for three days. During this time she showed the pupils her sketch books and talked about her inspiration. The pupils then had the opportunity to gather inspiration in the form of drawings and photographs. Rachael then led several workshops in discharge screen printing. This was a new technique to all pupils and one that can be used later in class. We had a wide range of pre dyed fabric to work on.



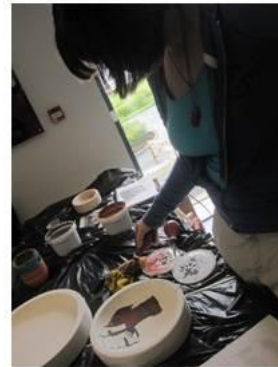
Ceramic workshop



Mrs Simpson led our ceramic workshops. Having these workshops worked out really well. It allowed us to work inside when the weather was really bad.

The P.T.A. provided funds to buy the press-moulds. We used money from our grant to buy clay and specialist tools.

We now have this resource available to use in school which extends the experience we can offer to pupils.



Painting and drawing inside as well as out.



Artist Workshops
Michael Durning PPAI

Well respected Contemporary Artist ,born in Irvine and now working and living in West Kilbride.



As well as working with the pupils daily and giving them guidance with their own work Michael started a painting and explained how he actually works himself. He took this painting from start to finish throughout the week. It was a fantastic experience for the pupils to see how a real artist works. The pupils experienced Michael changing his picture as the week went on, often obliterating parts he wasn't happy with and working over. He put up with lots of advice and criticism from his audience (including the centre cook) who were not slow in telling him if they preferred the previous version. This painting is now finished and will appear in a future exhibition. This is a really valuable lesson for pupils that will have to write about a contemporary Artists working methods as part of their SQA exam. In fact several of my pupils from last year wrote about Michael in their exam and all passed with high marks, one pupil gaining full marks. Michael worked with us for the whole week for a fee of £250. This fee would not cover two days at the normal artists rate. I am very grateful for the work Michael did with our students. He has also given up his own time to come into the school and show slides and talk to a wider audience. This first-hand study of contemporary Art is invaluable.



The finished painting