



Hugh Sexey

C of E Middle School

STUDY TITLE: DANCING DRAWINGS YEAR 7 AND 8 (AGE 11-13)

We would like to invite your child to take part in an innovative workshop called 'Dancing Drawings' on Wednesday 26th February, the workshop will introduce a local dancer, Innes Oliver, who is a former student of this school and is now studying at the Northern Ballet School in Manchester. The pupils will also work with Joanna Spicer, who undertook at MA in Illustration and studied how to capture movement in drawing by working with dancers. Joanna now teaches BA (hons) Illustration at Cardiff Metropolitan University and continues to be interested in the relationship between drawing and dance.

The aim of the workshop is to introduce children to the relationship between movement, dance and drawing, the starting point will be the Starling Murmuration, as interestingly the birds have no leader and follow no plan. Instead, scientists believe movements are coordinated by the starlings observing what others around them are doing. This idea of collaboration and spontaneity will be explored through creating movement, tableaux and short dance sequences. Approaches to drawing will be experimental and will see children test new ways of working for example, working at scale, using unusual materials, connecting their hands together and performing different drawing actions on the same page at the same time.

Joanna and Innes are interested in the way in which both drawing and dance might help develop pupil's sense of self, personal expression and confidence through movement, gesture and thinking through doing. The workshop aims to be fun and inclusive without expectation or pressure. The project is being supported by Wedmore Festival, who are keen to bring arts-based projects into schools. The festival is on during May 10-18th 2025. Documentation of the workshop will feature in the festival and Joanna would like the opportunity to document and reflect upon the project as part of her academic research.

The participation will involve taking part in a workshop with a mixed group of pupils from Year 7 and 8 who have expressed an interest in taking part. The group will be invited to pose, move and freeze frame using their bodies. They will also be invited to draw and collaborate on drawings. This may be out of their comfort zone and may feel strange at first, but the unplanned drawings are also very exciting and don't have to be perfect. The session will last approx. 90 minutes and there will be the option to sit out or complete an alternative activity individually, if anyone is feeling uncomfortable and no longer wishes to participate. The session will be photographed and filmed,

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focusing on hands, arms and legs, feet rather than on individual faces. This is to capture what happens at the workshop and reflect on what happened. Data gathered from the workshop may be used at Wedmore Festival and in a University based research project. Individuals will be informed via the school if any images including them are proposed to be used in a research output such as publications or journals and if they are happy to remain involved.

Kind regards

Mrs C Smith
Leader of Art