

Fox Class Art Exhibition Autumn 2024

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing rich, creative learning experiences, Fox Class held an exceptional Art Exhibition showcasing sculptures inspired by their History and English learning on *Beowulf* and the wider Anglo-Saxon period. This cross-curricular project brought together literature, history, art, and oracy in a highly purposeful and memorable way.

Curriculum Intent

Fox Class have been fully immersed in the Anglo-Saxon world this term. In English, they explored the legendary tale of *Beowulf*, using the drama and imagery of the text to inspire artistic interpretations of heroes, monsters, and key scenes. In History, they concluded their unit by learning about the end of the Anglo-Saxon era through the Battle of Hastings, gaining a strong understanding of the succession crisis of 1066 and the reasons the Normans ultimately succeeded. Their artwork provided a rich, creative culmination to this historical journey.

Implementation – Creating the Sculptures

Pupils demonstrated remarkable creativity and resilience as they worked with simple materials - cardboard, masking tape, and paint - to produce sculptures with real character and form. Every piece linked directly to elements of the stories they had studied, showing how deeply the children had engaged with both the narrative of *Beowulf* and their understanding of Anglo-Saxon culture.

Their ability to transform everyday materials into expressive, carefully constructed pieces was a real celebration of their artistic development. The pride and ownership they took in their work was evident throughout the process.

Becoming Curators – A Whole-School Exhibition

To celebrate and share their creations, Fox Class hosted a professional-style art exhibition, inviting the rest of the school to attend during timed entrance slots. This organisation helped pupils to take responsibility, manage visitor flow, and ensure that every guest felt welcomed and included.

Each pupil acted as a museum curator, confidently presenting their sculpture and explaining its significance. They wrote information cards, modelled on the interpretive labels used in galleries and museums, demonstrating their ability to communicate clearly, summarise key ideas, and use subject-specific vocabulary.

Their explanations showcased strong recall of substantive knowledge from both English and History, as well as the confidence to speak articulately to a range of audiences.

Impact on Learning

The exhibition had a powerful impact across several areas:

- **Deepened Knowledge & Understanding**
Pupils used their sculptures and explanations to demonstrate secure knowledge of Anglo-Saxon society, key events such as the Battle of Hastings, and narrative elements from *Beowulf*.
- **Enhanced Cultural Capital**
By role-playing as curators and engaging with a gallery-style event, pupils gained experience of how museums present artefacts and tell stories through art.
- **Strengthened Oracy Skills**
Explaining their work to peers and staff developed confidence, fluency, and the ability to speak clearly about process, intention, and historical context.
- **High Levels of Engagement & Pride**
Pupils showed outstanding behaviour, respect, and enthusiasm throughout the exhibition. Their work was shared with the school community and has now made its way home, where families can enjoy and celebrate it too.
- **Creativity & Resilience**
Transforming simple materials into detailed sculptures required problem-solving, perseverance, and imagination - skills vital across the curriculum.

This event showcased Fox Class at their very best: knowledgeable, enthusiastic, creative, and confident. Their Art Exhibition was not only a celebration of learning but a powerful example of the enriching experiences that deepen understanding, ignite imagination, and help pupils take pride in their achievements.

