

Gallery Showcases Teenagers Creativity

Teenagers from Huddersfield Technical College enrolled on programmes which aim to get them back into education or work hosted their very own exhibition.

Over 150 learners from Kirklees and Calderdale have produced a wide range of work from paintings to photography that went on show at the North Light Gallery in Armitage Bridge.



They have all taken part in the unique PLUS project which uses the arts to improve literacy and numeracy skills. The project has been run as part of the e2e and Rise to the Challenge programmes that prepare unemployed 16 -18 year olds for successful progression into apprenticeships, employment or further education.



Fine Artist Darren Baker, one of the country's leading painters, officially opened the exhibition and presented prizes for outstanding achievement. By using special art enrichment resources, designed in conjunction with artists working in the field of youth justice, young people have had the opportunity to take part in a range of creative activities whilst also developing their basic skills. Tara Webster-Deakin, PLUS Partnership Support Consultant, said:

"The PLUS materials were designed to answer a need for young people on the fringes of conventional education who are unable or unwilling to re-engage with the system. With exciting and unusual topics including Circus skills, Digital Photography and Storytelling, the materials enable young people to improve their basic skills and increase their self-belief and confidence. Thus equipped, they are then able to progress into further education, training or employment."

The e2e and Rise to the Challenge partnership consists of work-based training providers from Kirklees and Calderdale and is led by Huddersfield Technical College.

Partners include A & R Training Services Ltd, Mark Betts, Kirklees Youth Training, Calderdale Training, CMS Vocational Training Ltd, General Physics (UK) Ltd, JHP Training Ltd, Rathbone Training, Project Challenge, S & S Training Ltd, Dewsbury College and Huddersfield Technical College.



Gina Battye, Exhibition organiser and PLUS Support Officer from Huddersfield Technical College, commented:

"This PLUS project helped us to unlock potential by raising self esteem, increasing confidence and improving literacy and numeracy skills in a creative and fun way. This public exhibition is the culmination of a lot of hard work and is all about recognising and celebrating our learners' achievements."