CELEBRATE CREATIVITY ACROSS ENGLAND

Art Bytes is a national art and EdTech programme for Year 5 and Year 9 students in all educational settings, combining an inter-school art competition judged by artists and arts professionals with a bespoke virtual gallery, augmented reality (AR) tools and in-person Celebration Events in cultural venues across England.

"ART BYTES HAS BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR SCHOOL CALENDAR. WE USE THE PROCESS TO PROMOTE ART IN THE SCHOOL AND GIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHILDREN TO TALK ABOUT THEIR ARTWORK AND THAT OF OTHERS."

PENNY HAMILTON, TEACHER, MONKTON PARK SCHOOL, CHIPPENHAM

THE ART BYTES JOURNEY

SEPTEMBER

TILL DECEMBER
SCHOOLS SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE

Students create artwork throughout the autumn term.

FEBRUARY
SCHOOLS SUBMIT PHOTOGRAPHS OF STUDENTS' ARTWORKS

Teachers photograph and upload up to 30 of their students' creative works to our online platform by February half-term. There is no theme, and work can be in any 2D media. Once your school's page is online, EVERY child's work can be viewed in Augmented Reality (AR).

MARCH
JUDGING PANEL SHORTLISTS TOP 3 ENTRIES

A judging panel of respected artists and arts professionals selects the top 3 artworks from each school to go into the online public vote.

APRIL
PUBLIC VOTING OPENS ONLINE

The whole community gets involved! Students, families, and supporters vote online for their favourite shortlisted artwork. This builds engagement and gives students authentic audience feedback.

The artwork with the most votes from each school wins a place in our spectacular Virtual Gallery, ensuring every participating school is represented. Each school's winner progresses to the next stage of judging.

MAY
REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WINNERS SELECTED

Our judging panel reconvenes selects regional and national winners in each age group, from the winners of the public vote from each school, recognising exceptional creativity and artistic achievement.

JUNE
CELEBRATION EVENTS!

In June, shortlisted students, families and teachers gather at prestigious cultural venues across England's nine regions. Regional and national winners are announced, certificates presented, and the Virtual Gallery launches. Schools can also livestream or replay the events.

JULY

TEN REASONS TO TAKE PART

1. Offers a simple, straightforward way to integrate and celebrate art in the curriculum.

2. Participating contributes to a broad and balanced curriculum which builds students' cultural capital.

3. Improve students' confidence in their own ability and give a real sense of pride. *"This means a lot not only for me and the students, but for the school and the community as the area is a difficult area to grow up in and gives hope to all that it is possible to follow hopes and dreams and overcome any barriers."*
Paul Lillicrapp, Teacher at Stanton Bridge Primary School

4. Increase pupils' self-esteem, giving access to new opportunities, enriching their lives with authentic artistic experiences; particularly important with the growing mental health crisis facing young people.

5. Raise your school's profile regionally and nationally and demonstrate the school's commitment to arts and creativity and their value in school life.

6. SEND and mainstream schools compete on a level playing field, highlighting art as a leveller where ability and background make no difference:

"Thank you for continuing to encourage and promote arts in schools... you don't realise what this has done for him especially in terms of his self-worth and confidence."
Toni Caron Hinks, Teacher, Lamledge School

7. Fantastic opportunity to showcase your students' artwork outside school and compare standards of artwork with other schools across the country, online and in a gallery setting.

8. Connect families and communities to pupils' achievements, building collective pride. This strengthens school-community relationships and increases parental support for the arts.

9. Great way to engage students' families through the public vote, virtual exhibition and celebration event. *"The concept of Art Bytes, with students voting for their winners within school is great, and this enabled us to put it out to parents as well as students."*
Bethan Archer, Teacher, Uckfield College

10. Support your Artsmark journey and help meet Gatsby benchmarks, OFSTED and National Curriculum attainment targets.

WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE

- EVERY child's artwork viewable anywhere using our AR tool
- Online portfolio showcasing the school's creativity, featuring students' artwork entries, brief info and a link to your school's website
- Opportunity for community engagement through voting
- Experience of professional arts evaluation
- Promotion via printed publicity & social media
- Invitations for shortlisted students, teachers and families to celebration events at cultural venues
- Your school's winner exhibited in our bespoke virtual gallery
- Certificates for each shortlisted student and the school
- Opportunity to win great prizes for both students and school!

THE ART BYTES STORY

We believe every child should have the opportunity to have their creativity nurtured and celebrated. Art Bytes is our small way of addressing the continued sidelining of the arts in the school curriculum.

Since 2014 we have supported over 20,000 young people through our schools' projects. Art Bytes is proven to nurture talent, raise ambition and develop confidence and cultural capital, as well as support mental health and help develop vital skills for future employment. Art Bytes gives young participants the opportunity to see their art exhibited online and engage with new technology from the safety and convenience of their own home or school, as well as allowing them to see galleries and museums as places "for them" and encouraging future cultural engagement.

dot-art CIC is the small, unfunded, not-for-profit social enterprise that manages Art Bytes. Your entry fee, alongside support from sponsors and champions enables us to sustain the programme.

Budgets tight?
We may be able to help through our Art Bytes Champion scheme - get in touch for details.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

£195+VAT for primary or £295+VAT for secondary. To sign up visit: artbytes.co.uk/registration

THE ARTS SOCIETY

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