Outreach workshops

The Royal Academy of Arts Outreach Programme offers dynamic, all-day, creative drawing workshops to primary and secondary schools across the UK, held at your school. Originally planned with a life model at the centre of the day's activities, we have recently branched out to include a new set of workshops based around portraiture, working from both observation and imagination. The Outreach programme provides a unique opportunity for young people to explore a wide variety of approaches to drawing as a vehicle for developing their own creativity.

Workshops are mainly aimed at GCSE, AS and A2 students, but can be adapted for primary pupils at KS2 with a clothed model. Workshops can also be provided for groups of teachers.

What happens during an Outreach workshop?

During the workshop a group of up to 30 students embark on a journey of discovery with a visiting artist and, in some cases, life model. While exploring creative approaches to image making, they are encouraged to break free for a day, leaving previous ideas about drawing behind them.

A school hall becomes an artist's studio for the day and pupils work on the floor, in a large circle around the model using mainly charcoal and large sheets of paper. The workshop presents pupils with a synthesis between hand and mind, as fast- flowing exercises from observation and imagination interact with ideas about artists' creative processes and behaviours.

Exercises are designed to stretch the students' notion of what drawing encompasses and how it's a creative process in which risks are taken, responses explored, potential solutions compared, instincts acted on, mistakes made and exciting results achieved.

Please note that although the workshop complements regular coursework, the programme does not aim to produce 'finished' life drawings for examinations or assessments. The workshops are intended as part of the students' ongoing exploration of drawing, rather than additions to their course portfolios.

Primary and Secondary Workshops

INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Venue:

Up to 30 students can participate in each workshop. Please reduce the size of the group if space is limited. School halls or drama studios are good workshop venues.

Students will work on the floor and must have space for large drawings and ideally be able to stretch out in every direction without touching another person.

Please note that the floor will become very messy with charcoal

Schedule:

Secondary workshops:

Duration 9.30am-3.30pm including mid-morning break and lunch

Primary workshops:

Aimed at KS2 upper level

Duration 10am-2.30pm, including mid-morning break and lunch

Times can be reasonably adjusted to school timetables.

Life Model:

Please specify gender preference of model if necessary (subject to availability).

Please respect privacy by ensuring only workshop participants are allowed in the room.

For groups of students under the age of 14, models are clothed in leotard/trunks.

Please provide:

Fan/blow heaters that reach to the centre of the room. A well-heated room is essential for nude or clothed models. Our models may remain clothed if they are cold.

A warm, private area where the model can change.

A thin mattress or gym mat for the model to lie on.

Clothing: Students should wear old, comfortable clothes to work on the floor and with charcoal.

Teachers: Teachers are welcome to take part in the workshop if there is enough space in the room.

Materials:

PLENTY of thick and medium charcoal (not compressed charcoal).

PLENTY of paper - up to 15 large (A1) sheets per person (slightly less for KS2).

Cartridge - cheaper white.

Sugar paper (not newsprint).

Coloured chalks and pastels.

Pencils/biros for writing.

Plenty of masking tape for taping sheets of paper together.

Blu-tack and area for displaying work (large wall space is fine).

Large sheets of card/cardboard can be used on uneven floors. Students can bring in old cushions to kneel on if desired.

Feedback:

We really value your feedback and will send out questionnaires prior to the workshop for you and your students to complete and return to us.