

# **Brantwood Specialist School Pottery and Jewellery workshops Completion report for the Nineveh Charitable Trust**

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## **Brantwood Specialist School Pottery and Jewellery workshops**

### **Completion report for the Nineveh Charitable Trust**

#### **Summary**

The report celebrates the good news that thanks to your support our new pottery and jewellery workshops for young people with special needs will be operational from the beginning of September. The successful achievement of our fundraising target of £28,000 means that we have been able to fully convert and equip new workshop spaces in the beautiful Brantwood School building. We will now be able to offer pottery and jewellery as part of a rich and diverse curriculum to enable students to successfully develop literacy, numeracy, life and social skills and abilities. This report gives details of the achievement and how it will contribute to increasing support to young people with special educational needs in the future

#### **1. Brantwood Specialist School**

Brantwood, based in Sheffield is a registered independent specialist school and children's home providing education to children aged 7 to 19 with learning and behavioural difficulties (including autistic spectrum conditions, ADHD, OCD and attachment disorders). Students from across the UK attend Brantwood as its unique approach and positive ethos are seen as a beacon of hope and support for many parents and students for whom mainstream education has failed. Brantwood offers year round daytime and residential provision and it has achieved Ofsted grades of 'Good' for education provision and 'Outstanding' for care provision. The curriculum combines craft and work related learning, vocational qualifications, social and cultural programmes and living skills. Located in a beautiful building in a quiet leafy suburb of Sheffield the school has expanded rapidly since being acquired by the Ruskin Mill Trust in 2011. As well as the main school site students now have access to the Tintagel House, the newly renovated Merlin Theatre and a developing farm at Eyam in the Peak District.

#### **2. The Ruskin Mill Trust**

Brantwood Specialist School is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Ruskin Mill Trust. The Trust is one of the UK's leading charities providing high quality specialist residential education to children and young people with a range of complex learning disabilities and who may have also experienced trauma and abuse. Established over 30 years ago the Trust now has five colleges and two special needs schools offering education to young people across the UK.

Through being part of the Ruskin Mill Trust Brantwood benefits from a close relationship with the Trusts nearby Freeman College and students can progress to attending the College (which provides for 19 to 25 years olds) upon leaving the school. Founded in 2005 the College was specifically based in Sheffield to access the range of craft and metal skills the city is a world centre for. Since its foundation the College has pioneered craft based education building on a range of metal work and jewellery skills and disciplines.



### **3. Why are craft skills so important?**

Craft skills like pottery and jewellery enable young people with learning and behavioural difficulties to focus on rewarding work that can increase their concentration and self discipline. Through this they can develop the confidence and self esteem to enhance the acquisition of literacy, numeracy, communication and life skills (the teaching of which is integrated into the craft activities). When combined with the national curriculum this ensures that students achieve appropriate qualifications, including GCSE's, A levels and BTEC's. Speech and language, movement (Eurythmy), massage, art and occupational therapies are also available to enable children to realise their potential. A team of therapists work with staff and parents to ensure this holistic support is used to facilitate student's successful transition to independent living.

### **4. Making maximum use of your support**

#### **Equipping the workshops and supporting student work**

Through being part of Ruskin Mill Trust we have access to a wide community of highly skilled potters, jewellers and metal workers who also have additional expertise in working with children with special educational needs. This has enabled us to get the most effective equipment for working with young students.

#### **Building work**

The success and rapid expansion of the school delayed the development of the workshops and the work itself was more intensive than originally anticipated. The work included: replacing and renovating the floor, disconnecting and removing gas supplies, redecorating and fitting new partition walls, plumbing, electric wiring and sockets. Additionally specific conversions were required for each craft discipline including making a kiln wall and safety guard and fitting a washbasin in the pottery area. For the jewellery area this meant making a brick safety stand for soldering work, putting in an internal glass window (to allow line of sight for safeguarding) fitting a new washbasin and making metalwork benches. To keep costs down and make the most effective use of your funding most of the building work was done by our own skilled maintenance staff with additional specialist contractors called in for the gas and electricity fitting to ensure compliance with health and safety standards. We also used specialist advice in the fitting of the kiln and safety guard.

#### **Large items of specialist equipment**

To equip the workshops to be able support a wide range of pottery and jewellery work we also purchased a range of large specialist equipment.

#### **Pottery**

For pottery this included: a kiln and safety cage, pug mill, wet cabinet, new sink and sink trap, shelving and two potters wheels (including a specialist disabled access wheel)

#### **Jewellery**

For Jewellery this included: gas cylinder and soldering torch, bench drill, professional ultrasonic cleaner, barrel polisher with shot, compound metal rolling press and a safety acid pickling tank

#### **Additional materials and tools for students**

We have also purchased sets of individual tools for each student to use for their own personal work (e.g. sponges and sculpting tools for clay work; pliers, clippers and files for jewellery and metalwork)



## 5. Impact and success

Acquired by the Trust in 2011 the School has experienced increasing success and now has 35 students from across the country. The pottery and jewellery workshops add to the wide range of activities the school offers. To ensure the success of the pottery and jewellery workshops we have recruited a full time pottery and jewellery craft tutor to deliver year round teaching. Development plans include expanding the school's facilities and provision in partnership with our Clervaux ecofarm in North Yorkshire. This will enable more young people from across the country to benefit from the rewards the school offers. We will also be expanding our range of family craft workshops and activities to enable wider inclusivity and sharing skills and learning across the community

### Additional information

#### a) Budget

##### Expenditure

Building work	
Pottery equipment	£13,000
Jewellery equipment	£6,400
Materials and tools for students	£5,600
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£3,000</b>
	<b>£28,000</b>

##### Income

The Beatrice Laing Trust	£5,000
The Charlotte Heber-Percy Charitable Trust	£5,000
Brantwood Specialist School	£3,900
The Sterling Charity	£3,000
The ACT Foundation	£2,300
The Nineveh Charitable Trust	£2,000
David Solomon's Charitable Trust	£2,000
Sheffield Church Burgesses	£1,500
The Sylvia & Colin Shepherd Charitable Trust	£1,000
The Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation	£1,000
N Smith Charitable Settlement	£800
Hermes Trust	£500
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£28,000</b>

#### b) Pictures

1. The beautiful Brantwood School
2. Building a giant tortoise sculpture in Freeman College metal workshop's
3. The new pottery workshop at Brantwood. Students and staff in front to the kiln guard, wet cabinet and pottery wheel
4. Family pottery and clay session at Clervaux ecofarm