

## Integrated Arts Project 2018

Last week fifteen of our wonderful Year 7s took part in an Integrated Arts Project, this year held at Granta Special School. Now in its fifteenth year, St Faith's, Castle and Granta schools join together to take part in a very special two-day event which sees children with many differences coming together to create a movement piece, performed and shared with an invited audience. As always, it was a very moving couple of days, best described by the Year 7 students who took part. Here are just a few of their comments:

*I think it's good to work with people, who aren't as lucky as us.  
I enjoyed it because we made friends who we wouldn't normally see, or be in contact with.  
Overall, this was a great experience.*  
Lucas

*I really enjoyed going to Granta. There was one boy who could only say basic words such as 'hello'. He was really keen to share friendship with me and we communicated through some simple sign language I picked up from him.  
It was also nice to make bold movements taking them into dance and adding emotion. We learnt that small is scared and tall is proud.*  
Sergio

*Filipa was really good at helping when we struggle to help our new friends.*  
Annabelle

*It has been an incredible experience.  
Currently I had made two good friends.*  
Henry

*When we were in the minibus I was really nervous and wasn't sure what to expect. I made good friends with a really kind girl, and when we were playing with them it was really fun. I also realised how lucky we were. I am really excited for tomorrow. But it was a really good experience.*  
Evie

*It was really fun at Granta, but it was also quite emotional thinking about what they grow up to be and what we grow up to be.* Charlie RK

*My experience at Granta was great. I met a really nice boy. He couldn't speak apart from saying basic words, but me and Sergio communicated with him really well. Also we played games and even made a secret handshake. Overall, it was a lovely experience.*  
William



*I really enjoyed the project because as soon as we walked in. Everyone was so welcoming and friendly. We all waved and started talking to each other. The milling activities at the beginning helped everyone to calm down and feel more comfortable. Some people were a bit shy at first and others were excited but by the end, we were all openly chatting just like we would to our usual friends. My favourite activity was when we had to dance and act out our emotions to music. Someone would read out different feelings and we responded with our bodies, for example, if she said, 'trapped' then we would pretend we were alone and isolated. Overall I have made new friendships and thoroughly enjoyed the positive experience.*

*Emily*

*I really enjoyed this because it made me more able to play and engage with people with disabilities. I also appreciated how lucky we are. I felt nervous going in but after I had learnt their names and played some games I settled in and enjoyed playing with children I don't come across every day. I learnt how capable they are. The only difference really is it takes more explaining and being patient.*

*Louis*

A moment that, for me, captured the power of this project was when I looked into the audience and notice a very proud mother moved to tears at seeing her child dance. Also watching and smiling was her carer who told me that this was the very first time mum had seen her daughter interact and engage with others.

This project has been made possible by some key people. Central to the event is Filipa Pereira-Stubbs, from Barefoot Dance, whose expertise, enthusiasm and commitment brings this all together, and with Amy Holly, dance practitioner, choreographing and leading this collaboration. Each special school brought with them a team of amazing teaching assistants who, with such love and kindness, supported the children. I would like to particularly thank Chris Clayton-Smith who joined us this year and not only added his movement expertise, but a calm and caring approach that was appreciated by all.

Ms K Allen  
Head of Drama

