

Integrated Arts Project 2019

The Integrated Arts Project 2019 took place on Monday and Tuesday this week at Castle Special School, Cambridge. It is an amazing event whereby fifteen Year 7s from St Faith's join together with children from Castle and Granta schools. Children with many differences come 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 after Day One:

When I walked into the room I was very worried because it was very different to what I am used to. The first boy I worked with was very shy and had speaking difficulties. By the end of the day he was smiling.

I think it is a really good project because it really opens your eyes to what other children have to cope with.

Barney

At lunch, I felt that we had a really good opportunity to bond with the other students and we played 'it'.

I really enjoyed this experience and I will definitely treasure it for the rest of my life because I feel it helped me with my confidence around people and it was really fun.

Eloise

My new dance partner was very friendly and I learnt when I'm working with her I have to be patient and so we got along with each other very well. It was so much fun connecting with each other and quite hard with the music as we had to work out what to do when the music was fast and when it was slow.

I loved playing with my new friend because when we both got to know each other we found we had a lot of things in common which was great.

Roxy

I learnt that no matter how many differences, there are more similarities.

Eve

The project, in its sixteenth year, is organised by Filipa Pereira-Stubbs, from Barefoot Dance, whose expertise, enthusiasm and commitment brings this all together. After completing this year's event Filipa sent the participating schools an emailed putting into words her feeling towards the last couple of days:

"I think we have been doing it for so many years that we naturally accommodate the wonder, the reach, the huge learning that is achieved in such a small space of time. When you stop to think about what we create together, it is very special. And complex! And marvellous.

I feel each year my heart widens more and more in awe of what we achieve together over the two days. My head is full of the many moments – the encounters, the new friendships, the response, the building blocks of creating together that I witnessed.”

Amy Holly, a dance practitioner, skilfully choreographed the performance and each special school brought with them a team of teaching assistants whose tireless kindness and dedication was humbling to behold. St Faith’s Chris Clayton-Smith joined us this year and once again wonderfully supported all the children with such calm and caring.

A very special time with so many incredible moments.

Ms Allen
Head of Drama

