



NSEAD UPDATE: OFSTED AND SPAEDA'S WEB

Vital to the work of the Society is engaging with our members, or with our members' interests wherever they may be.

The last two weeks have seen us joining a Cultural Learning Alliance Roundtable with Ofsted alongside experts gathered from the education and cultural sectors representing music, dance, drama, media & English and of course art and design. The focus of the Roundtable was to consider, with and for Ofsted, the development of new criteria for inspectors on 'a broad and balanced curriculum' – with a focus on arts, culture and creativity in the wider school curriculum.

Alongside our attendance at an earlier collective meeting with Ofsted hosted by the CfSA (Council for Subject Associations), and a dedicated meeting with Ofsted focussing upon art and design earlier in the year, the Society is ensuring that as Ofsted continues its developmental work on 'a broad and balanced curriculum' the value of art and design will be at the forefront of its thinking.

We have held two meetings of our Specialist Interest Groups: one for Initial Teacher Education where our focus included constructing a rebuttal letter for the attention of Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Education on behalf of Sharon Hodgson MP, chair of our APPG. The Specialist Interest Group for Design has begun to inform work we are undertaking with the Design and Technology Association to look at the specific relationship between design across both our subjects, and to inform and improve the content for a new section on our website looking at design within the context of art and design.

We travelled to Taunton at the invitation of NSEAD members Alice Crane and Sara Dudman to join over 30 teachers, artist teachers and arts organisations at the Spaeda *Switched on to Art* Seminar at The Brewhouse Theatre & Arts Centre, to include the private view and celebration of the *SwitchBook* training programme exhibition.

The NSEAD keynote offered a national overview of art education training and professional development, to include the unique role of arts organisations who have the ability to support sustainable links between schools, venues and artists through carefully planned, managed and evaluated programmes, such as *Switched on to Art*. As brokers of opportunities between the education and cultural sectors, Spaeda acts as the glue that enables collaboration and progress.

The NSEAD keynote was followed by a series of presentations from teachers and educators from different sectors sharing how their engagement in the *SwitchBook* programme, through action research, and careful evaluation, had benefitted both themselves, their peers and their children and young people. Illuminating to hear how engagement at key stage 1 and 2; in a sixth form centre; in a pupil referral unit and with young people with special education needs had moved confidence, skills and understanding of art and design forward for so

many people. A leitmotif of the programme was *'I began doing things I never knew I could do.'*

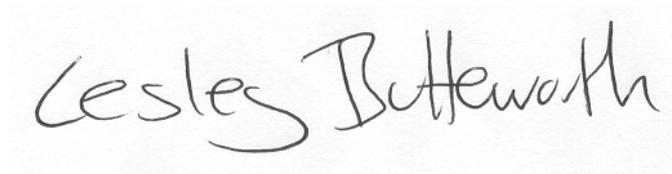
Dr Emese Hall from the University of Exeter has been acting as a critical friend to the programme and also contributed a thoughtful presentation; 'Self and System' perspectives on training.

Alice Crane and Sara Dudman concluded with a summary of the programme's outcomes and learning, and then moved our enthusiasm seamlessly into a session to consider next steps and priorities for teachers, arts organisations and creative practitioners in the region.

Spaeda is an established arts education agency that offers an extraordinary amount of resources and support for the arts across Somerset, if you are based in Somerset then this is for you!

<https://www.spaeda.org.uk/>

As you read this editorial we have just returned from meeting members in Dublin at the iJADE Conference, and today we will be joining other art agencies and artists at the Hampshire Secondary Art and Design Teachers' Conference at Southampton City Art Gallery. As always, we look forward to meeting and talking with NSEAD members from across and throughout the regions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Butterworth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lesley Butterworth
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20 November 2017