

**The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Art, Craft and Design in Education**

**Meeting online (Zoom platform) Tuesday 22nd June 2021. 5-7 pm**

**Agenda**

*Questions and discussion will take place between agenda items at the discretion of the chair.*

Our main session focus was the sharing of current initiatives and campaigns around visual art education and the work of the APPG.

1. **Sharon Hodgson MP** and Chair, welcome. (Participants attendance recorded from CHAT).

2. Minutes from last meeting to be approved. Minutes sent out with agenda.

3. The **NSEAD Anti-Racist Art Education Action (****ARAEA) Group** was set up in 2020, following the murder of George Floyd and subsequent aftermath. The Group shared their three published Anti-Racist Art Education Checklists that aim to support conversations around anti-racism, to help promote racial tolerance and equity in all phases of education. The ARAEA Group collectively challenged all art educators to be actively anti-racist to ensure the injustices brought about through racism are removed. The ARAEA Group member were represented by, **Marlene Wylie** (Vice-President NSEAD and Creative Education Consultant), **Clare Stanhope** (Head of Art & Design and Researcher), and **Sophie Leach**, (Deputy General Secretary NSEAD). A link to the resources is here: <https://www.nsead.org/community-activism/governance-opportunities/araea-group/> where you can also see a list of the members of the group, whose valuable work is ongoing.

4. **Steven Spier**, **Vice-Chancellor** **of Kingston University**, shared the findings and potential policy implications of their report Kingston University, in partnership with YouGov, after they had spoken to a range of 2,000 UK employers about the challenges they face to remain globally competitive over the next 10-20 years. The Future Skills League Table highlights **problem-solving, communication** and **creativity** among the top 10 core skills needed for a prosperous economy. Referenced in the presentation ‘These valuable skillsets are key in enabling businesses to become more resilient and competitive, especially amid the current global uncertainty’ Low Yen Ling, Minister of State, Ministry for Trade and Industry, Singapore. Using businesses and case studies helps our subject in the fight against what he called ‘phoney culture wars’. Steven Spiers shared the suggested next steps for Government, Regulators, Universities and Employers. Link to report: https://www.kingston.ac.uk/aboutkingstonuniversity/future-skills/

5. **Sandra Booth** CHEAD (Council for Higher Education in Art and Design) Director of Policy, shared an ‘end of term’ update with us about the campaign **#ArtIsEssential**. Sandra explained the campaign and the ‘call to action’ #ArtIsEssential event on the 10th June 2021, by sharing the context that the arts and culture sector contributes £2.8 billion a year to the Treasury, via taxation to the UK economy, and provides 363,700 jobs, but that recent events have exposed the delicate ecology of the sector, therefore leaving it vulnerable. Sandra emphasised that there is a real and urgent need to ensure that policy and decision makers are considering the needs of our sector and that they both see and recognise the far reaching impact the visual arts has in our communities and the contribution it makes to our economy. We have to reveal the unintended consequences to subjects like Art from their push on STEAM and Health as a priority in HEI. This campaign has been set up to unite us as one voice. Sandra underlined the need that, as a sector, we need to come together to be visible throughout 2021 and the run-up to the Government Comprehensive Spending Review to demonstrate that #ArtIsEssential’.

<https://www.artisessential.art/about>

Sharon Hodgson MP, APPG chair, letter to Gavin Williamson: https://www.nsead.org/files/843cd27bb615fe24c5abe39432f45519.pdf

5. **Professor Samantha Broadhead** (University of the Arts Leeds) and **Professor Pat Thomson** (University of Nottingham) will update on progress of the APPG research group, and future plans. After our two evidence sessions, the data from session 1 has been collated but was perhaps too diverse. The second session (ITEI) was much more focussed. The first session to be written up soon. The group have decided to write short report after each evidence session and these will lead to an overall report. The metaphor of the broken pipeline is central to these but can help us to create responses and recommendations.

6. **Professor Pat Thomson** presented the very detailed work that she shared at the 2021 **iJADE** (*International Journal of Art and Design Education*) Conference. This work (with Liam Maloy) was a **Rapid Evidence Review** into the benefits of Art, Craft and Design (AC&D) education in schools over the last two decades. Key benefits and related benefits were outlined and form a firm base as to the advantages of the subject. From a professional point of view. The review also addressed the nature, status and sustainability of AC&D education in the face of changes to the national curriculum, accountability measures, online learning and austerity.

7. **NSEAD** updates and current work and projects, **Michele Gregson**, General Secretary of NSEAD. Michele summed up tonight’s meeting as bringing together many people into common ground. Summary included thanks to ARAEA group, to CHEAD for their work and campaign. Issues around funding are still present. NSEAD have been working with the Crafts Council and DATA highlighting need for practical and creative learning. Empathy with Sir Kevan Collins and his rejected funding recommendation. NSEAD linked with REAP ‘Think Tank’- recordings will be shared. NSEAD looking at school based teacher education and being involved in contributing to subject specialist training. There are still concerns about access to CPD, although the online communities have grown and been influential during lockdowns. Should CPD be in twilight and Saturday mornings? NSEAD critical friend to HMI Jennifer Gibbs who has an imminent research review due soon.

8. AOB and date of next meeting. Date for the next meeting tbc, as access to parliamentary estate is reviewed in future months. Sharon Hodgson thanked all speakers and attendees at the meeting.