



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE: PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ST IVES SCHOOL  
OF PAINTING.

USING THE POWER OF CREATIVITY TO BUILD  
CONFIDENCE, WELLBEING, AND OPPORTUNITY  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS CORNWALL.

**FOUNDED IN 1938.**  
REGISTERED CHARITY SINCE 2000.

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**ST IVES SCHOOL OF PAINTING OFFERS  
A WIDE RANGE OF COURSES FOR  
TODAY'S GROWING COMMUNITY OF  
ASPIRING AND PRACTICING ARTISTS.  
FROM BEGINNERS DISCOVERING  
THEIR CREATIVE POTENTIAL, TO  
EXPERIENCED ARTISTS SEEKING TO  
REFINE THEIR SKILLS. EVERY  
STUDENT LEARNS DIRECTLY FROM  
PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS IN THE  
INSPIRATIONAL HEART OF ST IVES.**

# ABOUT ST IVES SCHOOL OF PAINTING

St Ives School of Painting was founded by two former naval officers, Leonard Fuller and Robert Borlase Smart, who vowed that if they survived the Western Front, they would one day live and paint in St Ives.

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**In April 1938, Borlase Smart persuaded Fuller to open the School of Painting in Porthmeor Studios, where we continue to teach students from around the world to this today.**

In 2000, The School became a registered charity, and now offers a wide range of year-round courses, in the studio and online. Our success is down to the team of contemporary artists who provide world class tuition for every level of experience, at the timeless Porthmeor Studios.

Thanks to generous benefactors and our wonderful students who 'pay forward', we are able to run free or subsidised tuition to local youngsters, providing life-changing experiences for those who may never normally get the opportunity to step into a creative environment.





# CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ARTS

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Thanks to donations, and our wonderful students, for more than eight years we have been able to offer our vital Young Artist's programme to those most in need - and we don't intend for this to end.

Despite a challenging landscape, we plan to invest in our future by working with like-minded organisations who believe in expanding opportunities for young people, to help them develop a sense of cultural entitlement, experience the joy of creativity and build resilience.

That's why we are reaching out to you.



# PARTNERING WITH US MEANS REAL IMPACT

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We have the resources, expertise, and space to provide a safe, creative place for young people - however, we rely solely on funding in order to make this programme sustainable.

## **By working together, we can:**

Enrich the lives of under-privileged young people in Cornwall

Highlight the vital importance of creativity for young people today

Share positive impact stories with our wider audiences



**IN THE UK, ONE IN FIVE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GRAPPLING WITH MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES, WITH MANY WAITING OVER 2 YEARS FOR SUPPORT. IN CORNWALL, APPROXIMATELY 29% OF CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN POVERTY, WITH CERTAIN AREAS EXCEEDING 35%.**

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Our programme provides free or subsidised art classes and inclusive projects for some of the most vulnerable young people in Cornwall. By giving them the chance to explore their creativity in a safe, welcoming space beyond the classroom, we see them grow in confidence, connection, and happiness. Over the past eight years, countless young people have shown us that access to creativity can truly change lives.

However, St Ives School of Painting is a small, independent art school and we rely on funding to survive. Since 2017, arts funding from UK national bodies has **decreased by 16%** and council spending on culture and leisure in England has **fallen by £2.3 billion since 2010/11.**



# WHY THIS IS VITAL FOR CORNWALL'S YOUNG PEOPLE

Data from the Cultural Learning Alliance & Mind

One in five young people now have a mental health disorder, which has risen from one in nine in 2010

The wait for mental health support for Young People is two years or more

In Cornwall, approximately 29% of children are living in poverty, with certain areas exceeding 35%

Youth services funding has decreased by 73% since 2010

Since 2010, young people choosing art has dropped by 42% at GCSE level and 31% at A-level.

Location and socioeconomic status are significant social determinants in whether a young person will pursue expressive arts options from the age of 14 .



# OUR MISSION, DELIVERY AND IMPACT

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There is a clear relationship between living in poverty and exposure to the arts. High levels of deprivation means having minimal cultural entitlement.

**Our programme aims to change that.**

Engaging in creative activities is associated with increased life satisfaction, a sense of purpose, and happiness; it can improve social skills, reduce bullying, and enhance emotional competence.



Thanks to the unique setting of The School, we can offer young people both the resources and the creative, safe space they need to thrive. We are fortunate to work alongside inspiring practicing artists, whose passion and generosity ensure that the next generation benefits from their wealth of experience and knowledge.



**I HAVE SURPRISED MYSELF. BEING ABLE TO COPE WITH GOING TO NEW PLACES LIKE THE HEPWORTH SCULPTURE GARDEN AND TATE ST IVES - I WOULD NOT HAVE TRIED THIS IF YOU HADN'T TAKEN ME. AND NOW I KNOW I CAN DO IT, I FEEL MUCH MORE HOPEFUL.**



# OPEN ACCESS WORKSHOPS

Our open access workshops, for young people aged 7-10 and 11-16, offer professional tuition through various art forms.

Free from screens, school pressures or home worries, and with no grades to chase, young people are given the freedom to create.

Our sessions are unlike any other: they work at easels, use the same high-quality materials as our adult courses, and learn from experienced artist tutors as they take their first steps as Young Artists.

Thanks to charitable donations, we can offer free scholarship places to families on low incomes. For every 32 young people at a weekend workshop, 8 attend at no cost, and with more support, we can grow that number.



**THANK YOU AGAIN FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE FOR MY SON TO COME FOR FREE. HE IS SO MUCH HAPPIER FOR YOUR WORKSHOPS, HE HAS EVEN SETUP A CORNER IN HIS BEDROOM AS A STUDIO! I AM SO GRATEFUL.**

# INCLUSION PROJECTS

Our inclusion projects vary from arts and culture projects, to working onsite at secondary schools, or working in partnership with local organisations to bring groups into the studio.

These vital projects give the most vulnerable young people a chance to re-engage with learning and experience the arts.

We work with those who are too ill to attend school, have been excluded, or are living in poverty and unstable homes. Many face serious risks to their wellbeing - but with our support, their outcomes can be transformed.

We reach beyond the studio walls to welcome those who would otherwise be shut out of visual arts and culture.

Through new creative experiences, young people gain skills, confidence, resilience, and fresh aspirations. Some even achieve a nationally recognised qualification: the Bronze Arts Award.



**“THE SESSIONS HELPED ME TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE WHICH MAKES ME FEEL AS THOUGH I CAN DO MORE THINGS LIKE THIS.**



# MEASURING IMPACT

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Our evaluation methods have been certified by service provider, Connect the Dots, ensuring that they are fit for purpose.

The reason we are so passionate about this Programme is because we have seen each young person's journey from start to finish, and we can prove that being part of these structured projects improves their overall well-being and helps them progress in society.

## AN IMPACT REPORT INCLUDES

- Baseline assessments
- Group feedback
- 1-1 discussions and feedback
- Project artist feedback
- Partner feedback





**ART AND CREATIVITY CAN  
TRANSFORM LIVES AND CHANGE  
PERSPECTIVES**

**WE CAN PROVE IT.**

**FOLLOWING A 6 MONTH CREATIVE  
INCLUSION PROJECT, THE GROUP  
FELT THAT THEIR ABILITY TO COPE  
WITH LIFE DOUBLED**



# IMPACT REPORT EXAMPLE

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This project group, aged 12-16 are unable to attend regular school due to mental or physical illnesses so therefore attend CHES Academy, a community and hospital education service.

The types of health issues included anxiety, eating disorders, self-harm, depression, and bipolar disorder.

## THE AIMS:

The project was non-accredited and aimed to support the young people in their Unit 1 GCSE work.

In addition, the project aimed to:

- Help them free up creatively & push comfort zones
- Build their resilience
- Give them the freedom to make without being judged
- Help them feel inspired and give a boost in wellbeing
- Give more weight to their GCSE coursework

# KEY FINDINGS

## ABILITY TO COPE WITH LIFE

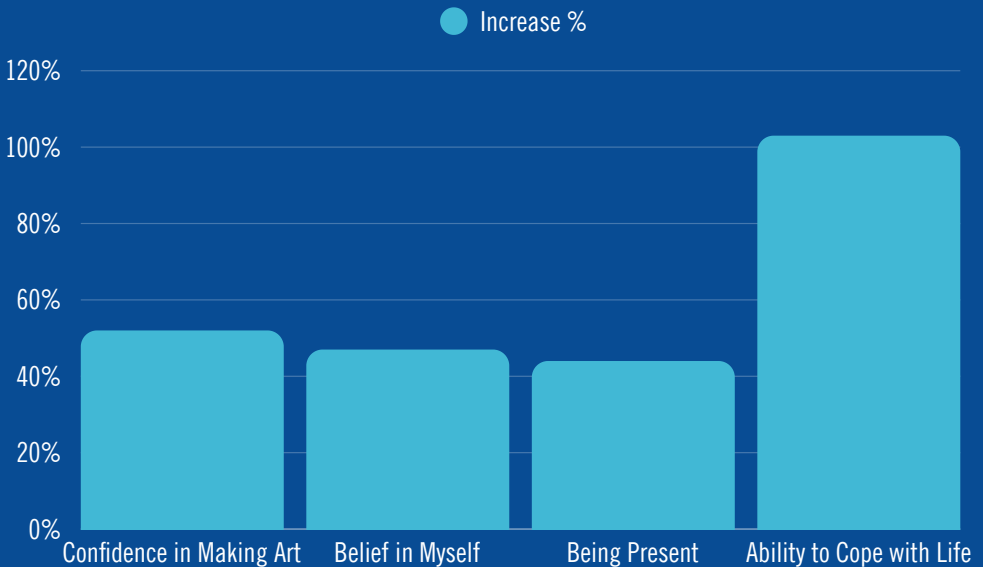
The groups biggest change following the six month programme was that they had increased resilience, and more of an ability to cope with the everyday scenarios that life gives them. Across the group, this **more than doubled** since the beginning of the project.

## CONFIDENCE IN MAKING ART

We saw a **52% increase** in those feeling that they now have the confidence to go and make art for themselves. This was a key aim for the project, and the young people can now take the tools they've learnt across various mediums and continue to express themselves through making.

## BELIEF IN MYSELF

There was a **47% increase in self-esteem and self-confidence** from the project. With the mental health issues they are all facing, this is a wonderful outcome.



# CHARITY PARTNERSHIP

This is where businesses and partners can truly make a difference. Even a small monthly gift helps secure the future of our youth programme, and all donations are tax deductible.

This is a shared investment in Cornwall’s young people, and in the creativity that will shape their future.

Get in touch today and be part of this change.



FROM AS LITTLE AS £500 A MONTH	
YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP	YOU COULD BENEFIT FROM
Fund further free places on our Open Access workshops	Exposure and recognition through our owned marketing channels
Fund the ongoing delivery of our current Inclusion Projects helping vulnerable young people	Opportunities for employee engagement, volunteering and creative collaboration
Support us with our aim to roll out more Inclusion Projects enabling us to reach more young people	Invitations to events & talks within our community

# PROJECT SUPPORT OPTION

A one-off donation helps us deliver vital inclusion projects for young people across Cornwall.

Together, we can ensure no young person is excluded from arts and culture because of cost.

Contact us today to find out how you can help.



DONATION	PROJECT
£3,500	Help us to work with young people who have been excluded from school, for behavioural issues, learning needs or poor attendance due to ill health. This is an accredited project where they can achieve a Bronze Arts Award, a nationally recognised qualification
£3,000	Help us work with young people that are too ill to go to school by funding a 6-month creative project
£2,000	Help us to run a weekly project for children and young people who are living in poverty in West Cornwall, these young people often live in temporary housing, have learning needs and mental health disorders.
£1,800	Enable us to run a subsidised term-time or summer art project for local children, which includes free scholarship places for families on low income.



# LET'S TALK

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We would love to chat more about potential opportunities, and invite you to St Ives to see the incredible resources and creative space available to young people in Cornwall.

Jane Cowans, Director, St Ives School of Painting  
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St Ives School of Painting  
Porthmeor Studios, Back Road West  
St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 1NG

Registered charity number:  
1146825.

A top-down view of a workspace with blue paper, blue ink, and hands using tools to create art or design. The scene is dominated by shades of blue and white. Several hands are visible, some holding tools like a T-shaped stamp or a brush, working on a large sheet of blue paper. There are also smaller pieces of paper with blue ink markings and a stack of white paper on the right. The overall atmosphere is one of creative activity and collaboration.

**BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS  
TO CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT  
TRANSFORMS ASPIRATIONS  
FOR THE FUTURE.**

**“YOUR PROJECT HAS LIT A FIRE UNDER MY DAUGHTER WHO HAS BEEN STRUGGLING FOR YEARS WITH HER MENTAL HEALTH. SHE IS FEELING INSPIRED NOW, AND MOTIVATED, WHICH IS WONDERFUL TO SEE.”**

**PARENT**

**“THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT IS SO APPARENT ON MULTIPLE LEVELS; THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS ITSELF, BOOSTING GCSE PORTFOLIOS, ALONGSIDE BOOSTING THEIR SELF-BELIEF, CONFIDENCE TO PERSEVERE, AND EXPOSURE TO NEW CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC EXPERIENCES. WITH THE EXPLICIT RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANT PLACE OUR LOCAL REGION HOLDS WITHIN THE WORLD OF ART.”**

**TEACHER FROM THE COMMUNITY & HOSPITAL EDUCATION SERVICE**

**St. IVES SCHOOL**   
**of PAINTING** UP THE STEPS

**St Ives School of Painting, Porthmeor Studios**  
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