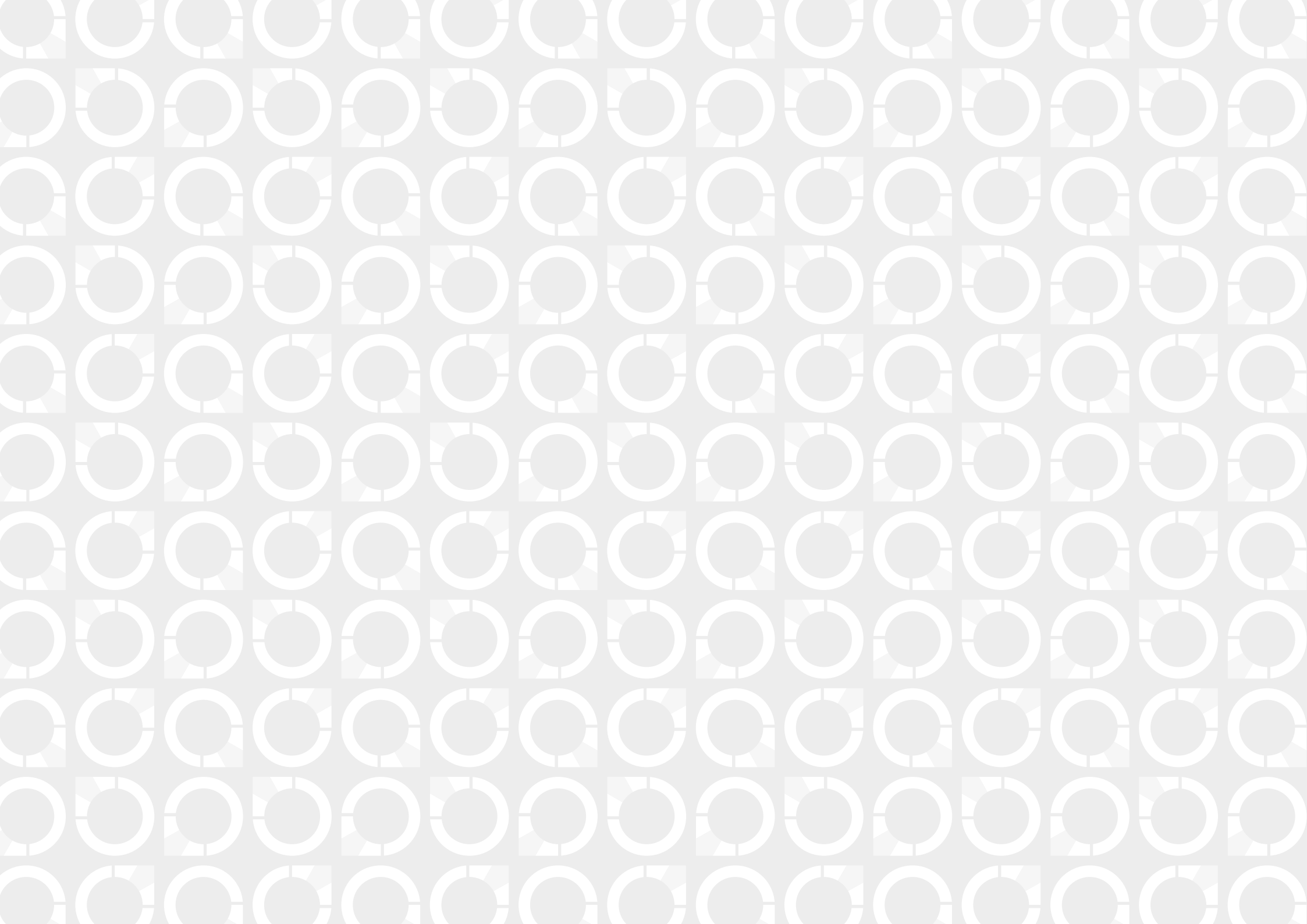




**The North West Comino Consortium 2023**



THE NORTH WEST COMINO CONSORTIUM  
YEARBOOK 2023





## INTRODUCTION

This year has seen many changes within our network of Comino schools and within the Comino Foundation. We are delighted that Professor Jose Chambers has taken over the chair of the trustees from David Perry. Many thanks to David who has done such a sterling job of getting the foundation on a secure footing in which has been a turbulent few years. Jose has been a friend and supporter of our work for many years, and we look forward to her wisdom and dedication in the next few years. Jose was development fellow before taking on a trustee role and we welcome Professor Bill Lucas into this role of strategic development adviser. Bill has influence at an international and national level and will continue to press for deep rooted changes in our education system.

Janice Allen headteacher at Falinge Park High School also made a career change from leading a successful school into a consultancy role. We thank Janice for her Comino time at Falinge and welcome her into the extended Comino family. Never let a good person go! Paula O'Reilly stepped up from deputy to headteacher and values the Comino work and we look forward to continuing our work with the school. We also welcomed Terri Rosa the newly appointed headteacher at St. Gabriels's into the Comino network. Highlights for me include attending the Royal Society – Foundation for Science and Technology, in the prestigious building of Carlton Terrace, London with Hana Ingham – Comino Lead Practitioner TEMA. Comino sponsored the evening “How can schools and colleges prepare young people for a technological life and help tackle the technical skills gap”. There were some excellent speakers and plenty of Comino networking.

Another highlight included the invitation to accompany two of our Comino headteachers to attend the 24-hour Comino consultation at Windsor Castle. A great networking event with incredible folk and many new ideas hatched. It was a chance to attend evensong in St Georges Chapel and quite an emotional visit to Queen Elizabeth II's resting place. Our morning session was interrupted by a chance to watch the new King and Queen and their families walk through the grounds to an event in the Castle. Unfortunately, there were no pics allowed - controlled by a police team with firearms.

Our school numbers have also increased, and we welcomed St Gregory's and Alice Ingham primary schools belonging to St. Teresa's of Calcutta Academy. Both schools made wonderful contributions in the projects they engaged with. The East Manchester Academy (TEMA) also joined the Comino family, and we had our first Comino baby – congratulations to Hana Ingham our Comino lead practioner who welcomed a baby girl in the summer.

We also increased our central core team to three – myself, Deborah Davidson and Jo Sliwa. Jo joins us on one day a week whilst Deborah reduces her days. Jo brings her experience and skills to the role and as co-chair of MADE (Manchester's cultural education partnership).

Our networking spreads far and wide and through the strength of partnerships (which take years to develop) and modelling our own home grown “Poet in Residence” project we were delighted to be awarded only one of six organisations to be successful in the Paul Hamlyn prestigious teacher development fund. The project will develop the skills of teachers in both poetry and digital music. Teach Heart Alliance through Bernie Furey takes the lead for us and was instrumental in developing and writing the bid. Our schools have also been invited to take part in the first ever Royal Ballet and Royal Opera House outreach programme for the north of England again brokered by Bernie Furey (lead practitioner at Sacred Heart RC Primary School). We look forward to our students “singing, dancing, and learning” alongside these famed distinguished artists.

I am indebted and appreciate our headteachers, teachers, students, trustees, partners, and our hard-working lead practioners who share the Comino values and deliver successful and outstanding projects across our network.

I hope you enjoy reading the Comino year book of 2023 with the same enthusiasm which has manifested itself into the many projects.

Pat Walters



“**WORKING WITH COMINO NOT ONLY INSPIRES US AS TEACHERS BUT PROVIDES US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH LIKEMINDED CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE TEACHERS AND LEADERS. THE COMINO FAMILY FOSTERS COLLABORATIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND ENCOURAGES ALL INVOLVED TO THINK DIFFERENTLY AND USE APPROACHES THAT THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS ABLE TO IN SCHOOL. THE SYNERGY BETWEEN THE TEACHERS, LEADERS AND THE CULTURAL PARTNERS ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION FOR ALL OF OUR PUPILS AND CONTRIBUTES TO A MORE DYNAMIC AND ENGAGING CURRICULUM FOR ALL. THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY YEAR WAS THE ‘FORGOTTEN HEROES PROJECT’, WHERE OUR PUPIL PARLIAMENT WORKED WITH THE COMMUNITY TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE HEROES WHO FOUGHT IN WW1 AND WW2. PUPILS USED THE RESEARCH THEY HAD UNCOVERED TO INFORM THE ARTWORK THEY DESIGNED WITH THE ARTIST ‘AKSE’.**

**Bernie Furey, Strategic Director of Teach Heart Alliance**

*Teach Heart Alliance*

## ABOUT OUR NORTH WEST COMINO CONSORTIUM

At the heart of the education work of the Comino Foundation is the Socratic belief that ‘education should be the lighting of a flame; not the filling of a vessel’. The North West Comino Consortium is a Community of Practice funded and managed by the Foundation to work with partner schools across Greater Manchester who share our ethos and aspiration for abroad, balanced and pupil centred education.

The consortium partners work together to pilot projects, programmes and pedagogies that help young people experience learning in settings that link the curriculum to real life practice. We believe that real-life learning, developed through partnerships with people and places in worlds beyond school can motivate young people to discover their passion for education and for a positive future.

One of the defining pillars of the work across NWCC schools within the past decade has been the development of pioneering work in the area of youth leadership programmes. Post Covid, and in the light of civic and climate crises, the UK is waking to the fact that the drive for positive change is coming from young people in the UK and across the world, and we are proud that many of our longest standing schools, are recognized locally, regionally and nationally for their transformational pupil leadership programmes. This year’s menu of opportunities continues to develop models of practice which put young leaders at their heart, with transparent signposting to where and how they meet Gatsby benchmarks and nurture cultural, social and career capital.

NWCC Schools Consortium schools include both primary and secondary phases.

They are:

The Derby High School  
 Falinge Park High School  
 Abraham Moss Community High School  
 Ladybridge High School  
 The East Manchester Academy  
 St Gabriels RC High School  
 St Monica's RC High School  
 Sacred Heart RC Primary School  
 Abraham Moss Community Primary School  
 St Gregory's RC Primary School  
 Alice Ingham RC Primary School



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# PROJECT CASE STUDIES



“**THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH A POET IS INVALUABLE AS IT RECONCEPTUALISES THE NOTION OF LEARNING AND PERSONAL GROWTH AND DISPLACES IT FROM A TRADITIONAL TEACHER MODEL OF DELIVERY TO LEARNING IN RELATION TO THE WIDER WORLD OR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES. IT ALSO REPOSITIONS LANGUAGE AND LITERACY AS A FORCE OF VITALITY, DYNAMISM, AND A MEANS TO EMPOWER AND EXPRESS. THE STUDENTS FOUND THEMSELVES INSPIRED AND CHALLENGED BY WORKING WITH A POET AND USED THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE SHOWCASE TO DEVELOP ORACY AND PRESENTATION SKILLS’**

**Simon De Courcey, Director of Cultural Capital**

*Falinge Park School*

## CASE STUDY: POET IN RESIDENCE

### LEARNING FROM POETS AND THE DYNAMIC CULTURAL OFFER OF GREATER MANCHESTER

This project sets out to motivate pupils’ enjoyment of creating, reading, and reciting poetry; by working with inspirational people - young adult poets at the start of their career, in inspirational places - some of the exciting cultural and community providers from across the dynamic city region in which they live. Through the project we aim to enrich pupils’ school experience of poetry, and to support the development of their cultural and career capital, in a context which contributes to the requirements of the English national curriculum.

Children are often natural poets and engaging with poetry and bringing them into contact with actual poets who can model their own enthusiasm and passion for poetry offers an opportunity for pupils to express their ideas and opinions, exploring their creativity and building confidence as they are inspired to write, perform, and create.

We were delighted to once again work with Manchester Poetry Library, and the Manchester Metropolitan University’s Writing School, as key partners for the project. Both organisations have been set up under the auspices of Manchester Metropolitan University’s Professor Carol Ann Duffy, formerly UK Poet Laureate. Together with these partners the Comino team coordinated the application, recruitment, and training of post-graduate student poets, who each received a Comino Foundation bursary to lead a project in their matched NWCC school. Poets were then matched with English teachers from each participating school and then these partnerships were matched with a cultural institution.

#### Participating Schools:

Falinge Park High School  
Ladybridge High School  
Abraham Moss Community High School  
The East Manchester Academy  
St Gabriel’s RC High School  
Sacred Heart RC Primary School  
Abraham Moss Community Primary School

#### Partners:

Manchester Metropolitan University  
Manchester Poetry Library  
Manchester Central Library  
The Portico Library  
Commonword  
The Whitworth  
Z-Arts  
Science & Industry Museum  
The National Football Museum  
M6 Theatre Company

#### Meets Gatsby Benchmarks: 2,3,4,5,6,7

Nurtures Learners’ Social and Career Capital





As such both schools and early career poets were able to work with amazing partners in and around Greater Manchester, including the Whitworth, the Science and Industry Museum, Manchester Central Library, the National Football Museum, The Portico Library and M6 Theatre in Rochdale.

Each Poet in Residence partnership then worked collaboratively to create a bespoke scheme of learning for pupils, based on the resources and inspiration provided by their cultural partner, culminating in the creation of a collection of poems. Each project was different, there were usually from three to six sessions in school, a visit to the cultural institution, and, a visit to the Manchester Poetry Library. In total nine poets were partnered with nine classes from schools across Greater Manchester.

Through this triangulation of skills, knowledge, and expertise, all pupils and the staff who teach them were able to engage in a meaningful and nuanced way with the dynamic cultural offer on their doorstep, at the same time as gaining a deeper understanding of the environments in which poetry thrives.

Celebrating achievement is also key to this project and the pupils' work has been showcased in schools, and at the Manchester Poetry Library, as part of the City of Literature Schools Creative Writing trail, allowing others to appreciate their work.

“

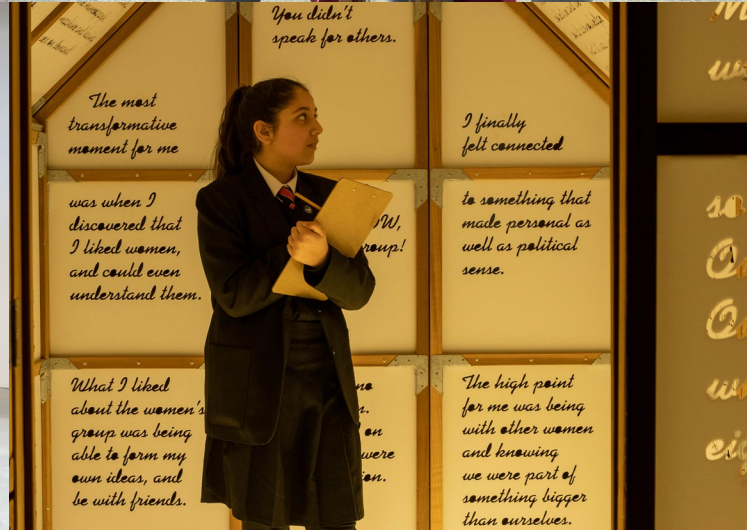
ONCE AGAIN IT HAS BEEN A **TOTAL JOY** TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE POET IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMME. THE STUDENTS HAVE **SO MUCH TO BE PROUD OF** — FROM DRAFTING **HONEST, DETAILED PIECES OF WRITING** ABOUT THEIR SECRETS AND COMMUNITIES TO **PERFORMING IN FRONT OF A LIVE AUDIENCE**. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY HAVE **BENEFITTED HUGELY** FROM PARTICIPATING.

**Radhaika Kapur**









“ THE RELATIONSHIP CREATED BETWEEN PARTNERS IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. POETS ARE PROVIDED WITH A PLATFORM AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND NEW AUDIENCES WHILST ALLOWING CULTURAL PARTNERS TO REMAIN ENGAGED WITH THE WORK OF ARTIST AND WRITERS WORKING INDEPENDENTLY IN THE CITY.

Amy Deighton  
Poet



“BEING PART OF THE COMINO POWER OF 6 JOURNEY HAS BEEN FASCINATING AND VERY FULFILLING, OUR SIX YEAR 4 PUPILS THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE, FROM CREATING A LESSON, TEACHING THEIR FELLOW YEAR 4 PUPILS, TO THEN WORKING WITH YEAR 8 PUPILS AND OTHER SCHOOLS. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PAUL SHARP, OUR INDUSTRY MENTOR FROM URENCO, GAVE ME AND THE CHILDREN A GREAT WAY TO THINK ABOUT MATHS IN A REAL-WORLD SITUATION, LEADING TO OUR MANAGEABLE WASTE INVESTIGATION IN THE SCHOOL. THE CHILDREN FELT LIKE THEY COULD MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE THROUGH THIS PROJECT. IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH THE CHILDREN AND COMINO IN THE POWER OF 6 AND IT WOULD BE GREAT TO CONTINUE THIS JOURNEY FURTHER.

Maths KS2 Teacher

*Abraham Moss Community Primary School*

## CASE STUDY: ‘POWER OF 6’

### STEM EMPLOYERS HELP DEVELOP MATHS PUPIL LEADERS

At NWCC we are passionate about developing learning models which nurture pupil leadership. Whilst we’ve achieved success in developing active pupil leaders in a wide range of curriculum areas, schools challenged us this year to explore whether we could develop a curriculum based programme which nurtured ‘maths champions’ who might be successful in leveraging engagement and driving attitudinal change in their less confident peers.

In addition to focusing on pupil leadership, maths teaching teams wanted us to demonstrate to these talented young maths champions how their natural maths ability put them in a strong position to aspire to executive level jobs in STEM career pathways. Schools asked us to create direct links with senior managers in STEM based businesses who would work with our maths champions to develop workshops and resources which would playfully explore the maths involved in their professional role. Finally industry mentors and maths champions, supported by teachers, would create an engaging workshop and toolkit which maths champions could test on each other and their peers. The project proved to be truly transformational, not just for pupils, but for Maths teaching teams too. St Monica’s High School pupils worked with Sion Skinner, an engineer from the Cheshire based Nuclear Energy Company; Urenco, on a project which looked at the maths of ensuring safety in the Nuclear sector; whilst Ladybridge pupils worked with a Senior Project Manager; Neil Stubbs from Infrastructure developer Aecom, to produce a green proposal for powering their school hall.

#### Participating Schools:

Falinge Park High School  
Ladybridge High School  
Abraham Moss Community High School  
The East Manchester Academy  
St Monica’s RC High School  
Sacred Heart RC Primary School  
Alice Ingham RC Primary School  
Abraham Moss Community Primary School

#### Partners:

Comino Foundation  
Urenco  
Aecom  
Peel L&P  
Rich Jones  
Contact Theatre, Manchester  
Amrit Singh

#### Meets Gatsby Benchmarks: 2,3,4,5,6,7

Nurtures Learners’ Social and Career Capital



Primary children from Abraham Moss worked with Chemical Engineer, Paul Sharp, also of Urenco, to create a no-waste menu of dishes for the school canteen; whilst TEMAC students took staff motivation and well-being as their focus to develop a web-based fantasy basketball league for bonding downtime for staff and clients of their digital project manager; Rich Jones. One of our very own Comino trustees, Amrit Singh, stepped in to help mentor pupils from Falinge Park High School, developed a workshop showing the complex mathematical calculations needed to pitch a business plan, and The Derby High School pupils created a motivating but informative game exploring managing a student budget, with Peel L&P's business intern; Talia Mesrine, on her year out from the University of Manchester, Masters course. Pupils were also able to experience University life, as we worked with the Engineering School to host our high profile Power of 6 Summer School, where pupils wowed each other and their mentors with the amazing workshops and resources they had created. All schools have a full pack of all resources so all pupils in all schools, can share in the experience.

“

THE POWER OF 6 PROJECT HAD A **GREAT IMPACT** ON THE SIX TEMA Y8S WHO TOOK PART. I WATCHED THEIR **CONFIDENCE, ORGANISATION, AND SENSE OF PRIDE FLOURISH** AS THEY SAW THEIR **INITIAL IDEAS COME TO LIFE** IN THE FORM OF AN ENGAGING BOARD GAME. THE STUDENTS THEMSELVES FED BACK THAT THEY FOUND THE EXPERIENCE **MORE HELPFUL THAN OTHER CAREERS EVENTS** THEY HAD BEEN A PART OF, AS THEY GOT TO **WORK DIRECTLY WITH AN INDUSTRY MENTOR** AND APPLY THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MENTOR'S JOB TO AN EXTENDED TEAM TASK.

**Maths KS3 Teacher**

*The East Manchester Academy*





“FOR LADYBRIDGE, THE POWER OF SIX HAS BEEN TRANSFORMATIVE. OUR STUDENTS FOUND THEY DEVELOPED SKILLS THEY HAD NOT CONSIDERED IN THE TEACHING AND PLANNING OF THESE EVENTS SUCH AS BUILDING CONFIDENCE, TIME MANAGEMENT, LEARNING TO DEAL WITH CHALLENGING CHARACTERS WITHIN A TEAM AND SPEAKING TO A CROWD... ONE STUDENT HAS TAKEN THESE LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND USED IT TO SECURE A POSITION AS RESPECT AND WELLBEING SENIOR LEADER WITHIN SCHOOL. SHE NOW HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EFFECT REAL CHANGE AROUND SCHOOL AND LEAD OTHERS IN MAKING HER DREAMS A REALITY.

Maths/Science KS3 Teacher

*Ladybridge High School*

“WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO OUR LOVELY TEACHER MRS RICHARDS, WHO INTRODUCED US TO THIS POWER OF 6 PROJECT WHICH WE WILL REMEMBER FOREVER.

Maths/Science KS3 Teacher

*Ladybridge High School*



“IT WAS AWE INSPIRING TO WATCH SOCIAL COHESION IN ACTION, AT MANCHESTER JEWISH MUSEUM THIS AFTERNOON. HOW AMAZING TO SEE THIS GROUP OF YEAR 3 STUDENTS FROM ABRAHAM MOSS COMMUNITY PRIMARY, REFLECT WITH HUGE EMPATHY ON THE TERRIBLE EXPERIENCES OF GERMAN JEWISH CHILDREN DURING WORLD WAR 2, TO A RAPT AUDIENCE OF ELDERS FROM BOTH LOCAL MUSLIM AND LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITIES.

Comino Foundation

“I HAVE LEARNT THAT WE SHOULD ALWAYS HONOUR THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT EVERYONE MADE DURING THE WARS AND LEARN FROM THE PAST AS IT HAS THE POSSIBILITY TO SHAPE OUR FUTURE.

Year 3 Pupil

Abraham Moss Community Primary School

## CASE STUDY: ‘FORGOTTEN HEROES’

### LEARNERS REMEMBER THE WW2 CONTRIBUTION OF BAME ARMED FORCES

This project disseminated the RSA award winning project developed by Vacas Ahmed and Simon De Courcey from Falinge Park High School and a group of their inspiring pupil ambassadors in 2021. In order to maximise the impact of the project Simon De Courcey led a multi-school project using the same project model with PHSE and Citizenship teachers from Sacred Heart RC Primary School, Abraham Moss Primary School, Ladybridge High School and St. Gabriels RC High and selected groups of their pupils.

The original project explored the contributions of the BAME community of Rochdale to Britain in World War Two, to create a more inclusive narrative of British forces during the Second World War. Simon extended this model to other NWCC schools to help them to uncover and tell the stories of ‘Forgotten Heroes’ from their own local communities and neighbourhoods across Greater Manchester. A class or year group of pupils in each school coordinated a call-out for their ‘heroes’ and were responsible for interviewing them to develop and promote their story. The impact of the stories were amplified through the creation of artworks, exhibitions and videos which have become iconic talking points within each school’s local community.

#### Participating Schools:

Falinge Park High School  
Ladybridge High School  
St Monica’s RC High School  
Sacred Heart RC Primary School  
Abraham Moss Community Primary School

#### Partners:

Comino Foundation  
Falinge Park High School  
The Royal British Legion  
British Futures  
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council  
Manchester Jewish Museum

#### Meets Gatsby Benchmarks: 2,3,4,5

Nurtures Learners’ Social, Cultural and Career Capital









Both high school and primary school pupils gained understanding of the context of the World Wars in history and explicitly considered the approaches, relevant research methods and skills for this project at a level which was appropriate for their key stage. Pupils from Falinge Park High School, Sacred Heart RC Primary, Ladybridge High School understood and celebrated the diversity of the British Armed forces and are able to share their understanding across school and into their own local community. Pupils from Falinge Park High School collaborated with The Royal British Legion, British Futures and Rochdale's religious leaders. Pupils from Abraham Moss Community Primary, worked closely with Manchester's Jewish Museum to create an exhibition which looked at the experience of Jewish children in Germany during World War 2; alongside presenting their work at an event attended by both Jewish and Muslim communities and elders at the Cheetham Hill Synagogue. Pupils from Sacred Heart Community Primary worked with local graffiti celebrity, Aske and filmmaker Dan Tewe to produce a building sized mural of their 'Forgotten Heroes' on one of the schools' walls. We are delighted that the RSA have produced a 'blog' on our project to be shared across social media platforms.

*"My initial thought about the project was one of apprehension. I was worried about how I would approach this subject sensitively with Y3 but with the detail needed to give them an in-depth understanding. I then collaborated with Manchester Jewish Museum and created lesson plans and activities based at school and the Museum which the pupils absolutely loved. We linked the learning to their own experiences and they were full of empathy for the refugees and survivors. All staff and pupils gained an insight about survival and how true heroes can be found in all faiths and walks of life. This was beautifully evidenced in our end of year presentations at the Museum and with the other schools taking part in the project. (This was) a truly remarkable project to be a part of and one both the pupils and I will remember fondly for a long time!"*

**Director of Teaching & Learning - (Primary Phase)**

Abraham Moss Community Primary School

“

**THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR MY SCHOOL. IT IS POWERFUL TO SEE ALL THE PROJECTS FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AND FOR ALL OF THEM TO BE SO VERY DIFFERENT; FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH THEIR DESIGNED BAGS AND MURAL ART TO THE POETRY AND RESEARCH COMPLETED BY OLDER STUDENTS. IT WAS EXTREMELY SPECIAL, ESPECIALLY FOR SOME ADULTS AND GUESTS TO HEAR ABOUT THEIR OWN FAMILIES BEING RESEARCHED AND CELEBRATED.**

**Project Lead Teacher**

St Gabriel's RC High School





“ WE ARE STILL SO MOVED BY THE PRESENTATION AND MURAL UNVEILING THIS AFTERNOON. THE SCHOOL PARLIAMENT ARTICULATED THE PROJECT SO RESPECTFULLY AND MATURELY AND ARE AN ABSOLUTE CREDIT TO YOUR SCHOOL.

THE PERSONALISED COMMENTS FROM THE ARTIST AND THE KIND GESTURE OF PASSING OVER THE SPRAY CAN CERTAINLY TOUCHED JACK’S GRANDPARENTS. THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO SHOWCASE THIS WONDERFUL TRIBUTE TO OUR FAMILY.

**Family Member**

*Sacred Heart RC Primary School*

“ THE RECOGNITION AND HONOUR AND RESPECT PAID BY THESE YOUNG PEOPLE IS HUMBLING.

**Judith Wetheime**

*Daughter of Helen Taichner, a holocaust survivor the children studied with Manchester’s Jewish Museum*



“A TRULY UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY. STUDENTS MET REAL-LIFE POLITICIANS, WITNESSED HISTORY BEING MADE AND EXPERIENCED FIRST-HAND HOW DECISIONS WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT TAKE TODAY WILL AFFECT THEIR FUTURE. A LESSON EVERY CHILD SHOULD HAVE IF WE ARE TO ADDRESS SOCIAL DIFFERENCES IN POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AND INSPIRE THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW.

**Lynn Provost**

*The Derby High School*

I FEEL I KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BRITISH POLITICAL SYSTEM AND HOW TO BECOME A PART OF IT, WHICH WILL HELP ME IN MY FUTURE. THIS WAS AN EXCITING, ENJOYABLE AND INSPIRING PROJECT TO BE A PART OF.

**KS4 Student**

*St Monica's RC High School*

## CASE STUDY: 'FROM SCHOOL LIFE TO PUBLIC LIFE'

### UNDERSTANDING BRITISH DEMOCRACY FROM THE INSIDE

An understanding of British democracy and the responsibilities of active citizenship are at the heart of community identity in the UK; and provide a context to young peoples' emerging understanding of British Values. This project allowed young people from all walks of life, to learn, at first hand and from the inside how politics works; and to stimulate their aspirations to play an active part in social change. The Comino Foundation partnered with local politician James Frith to develop this programme which introduced young people in all NWCC schools to the Nolan Principles for Standards in Public Life, for a life in Parliament, and more widely as a framework of values which pupils might adopt as aspirational in their own lives.

The project launched in each school with a presentation and debate on the Nolan Principles, to full year groups of pupils from each of the participating schools. Following this session pupils were invited to apply to attend an expenses paid trip to Westminster, where they had a formal tour of Westminster Hall and both Houses of Parliament, and the chance to view the House of Commons in action. Pupils also got to go 'behind the scenes' at a bespoke Q&A session hosted in members committee rooms by James Frith, prospective Labour candidate for Bury North, and his Bury South colleague, Christian Wakeford, MP, where each young person was able to question and/or advocate to the politicians on issues which meant the most to them.

#### **Participating Schools:**

The Derby High School  
Ladybridge High School  
Abraham Moss Community High School  
The East Manchester Academy  
St Monica's RC High School  
St Gabriel's RC High School  
Sacred Heart RC Primary School  
Alice Ingham RC Primary School  
Abraham Moss Community Primary School  
St Gregory's RC Primary School

#### **Partners:**

Comino Foundation  
James Frith  
Christian Wakeford MP, Westminster

#### **Meets Gatsby Benchmarks:** 3,4,5,6.

Nurtures Learners' Social, Cultural and Career Capital





“

BEING ABLE TO **SPEAK AND LEARN** FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF AN ACTUAL MP REALLY **PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE** THAT IF I REALLY WANT **A CHANGE** IN THE WAY I LIVE IN THE UK, I NEED TO **FIGHT FOR IT, AND BE THE CHANGE** I WANT TO SEE.

**KS3 Student – Comino Student of the Year 2022/23**  
*Abraham Moss Community School Pupil*









“FOR ME, THE PROJECT PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIRST LISTEN TO JAMES FRITH IN OUR SCHOOL ABOUT PUBLIC LIFE AND TO THEN TAKE SOME STUDENTS DOWN TO WESTMINSTER, TO VISIT THE SEAT OF OUR NATION’S POWER, AND FOR THEM TO FULLY UNDERSTAND HOW PARLIAMENT WORKS ON A DAILY BASIS AND BE INSPIRED TO GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. HOPEFULLY THIS PROJECT DID THAT.

History & Politics Teacher  
St Monica’s RC High School

“THIS WILL PROBABLY HELP MY FUTURE LIFE GOALS, AS IT WILL ONLY STRENGTHEN MY RESOLVE TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER ONE DAY, SO SEEING PEOPLE COME SO FAR MAKES A DREAM TURN INTO A REALITY.

KS4 Student – Comino Student of the Year 2022/23  
St Monica’s RC High School







“THE SCREENSKILLS WORKSHOP GAVE STUDENTS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN HIGH END TV. STUDENTS AND PARENTS WERE PARTICULARLY ENGAGED WITH THE PANELISTS WHO SPOKE WITH ENTHUSIASM ABOUT THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS AND EXPERIENCES IN THE INDUSTRY. STUDENTS LEFT THE EVENT WITH A GREATER INSIGHT INTO THE JOBS AVAILABLE IN THE SCREEN INDUSTRIES.

**Catherine Nelson, Comino Lead Practitioner**

*St Gabriel's RC High School*

## CASE STUDY: ‘SCREEN SKILLS CAREERS ROADSHOW’

### LEARNING ABOUT REAL JOBS IN TV & FILM FROM PROFESSIONALS

At the heart of the education work of the Comino Foundation is an ethos and aspiration for broad, balanced and pupil centred education, and we are always keen to develop partnerships with organisations that can provide career inspiration for many different types of talented young people. Over many years we have established strong links with Manchester creative and digital industries, as the city region hosts one of the largest creative and digital clusters in Europe. At the heart of the rapid growth of the sector in Greater Manchester is Europe's largest purpose-built digital hub; Media City UK, with its vast infrastructure of media production facilities which provide workspaces for not only the BBC and ITV, but also a thriving independent production community servicing both terrestrial and digital media channels, where job opportunities have never been more achievable. In terms of career connectivity for schools, the Comino North West team have a long and valued connection with Screen Skills; the education and skills development body for these industries, and their North West team.

#### **Participating Schools:**

The Derby High School  
Ladybridge High School  
St Gabriel's RC High School  
St Monica's RC High School  
The East Manchester Academy

#### **Partners:**

Comino Foundation  
Screen Skills UK

#### **Meets Gatsby Benchmarks:** 2,3,4,5,6

Nurtures Learners' Social, Cultural and Career Capital





We were delighted, therefore, that early in 2023 Screen Skills, invited all North West Comino Consortium schools to partner with them directly on a new 11-16 careers initiative, to test out the format for a pilot of what will become a national scheme. With significant influence within the sector and a high value contacts list; Screen Skills worked directly with each NWCC secondary school to deliver an inspirational 'Screen Skills Careers Roadshow' hosted individually by each school for pupils, teachers and parents. An amazing industry panel of hugely experienced producers, directors, script and story editors, costume and set designers and production managers and facilitators gave personal insights into working in these roles, and how pupils could maximise their credentials for entry level jobs; as well as taking part in a lively, interactive and very well received Q&A session with pupils, their parents and interested teachers.

## ScreenSkills

High-end TV



## Let's Talk TV! workshop

Find out how your skills and hobbies can help you get a job working in TV. Join ScreenSkills for an interactive workshop which explores the jobs in TV drama and how you can take your first steps into the industry. Discover jobs in Make-Up, Costume, Art, Camera, Editing, Accounts and many more. Years 9 – 11 only.

**WHEN:**

**TIME:**

**WHERE:**

**SIGN UP TO ATTEND:**

ScreenSkills is the industry-led skills body for the screen industries – film, television (including children's, unscripted and high-end), VFX (visual effects), animation and games. We train the people who make the shows the whole world loves and are supporting continued growth and future innovation across the country by investing in the skilled and inclusive workforce who are critical to the UK screen industries' global success. We provide insight, career development and other opportunities to help people get into the industry and progress within it. [screenskills.com/getintotv](https://screenskills.com/getintotv)



“ THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE REAL-WORLD CONTEXTS AND LEARNING TO STUDENTS OFTEN PROVES TO BE A HUGE MOTIVATING TOOL, ENABLING STUDENTS TO VISUALISE THEMSELVES IN THEIR FUTURE CAREER PATHWAYS OR IDENTIFYING EMERGING EMPLOYMENT MARKETS. IT'S AN ESSENTIAL BRIDGE IN CONNECTING THE TRADITIONAL CURRICULUM WITH THE CONTEMPORARY AND DYNAMIC WORKPLACE, ADDING VITALITY TO STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND DAY TO DAY ACADEMIC PROGRESS. STUDENTS COME AWAY FROM THE EXPERIENCE WITH NEW INTRINSIC MOTIVATIONS AND GREATER SELF WORTH, BENEFITING FROM SOFT SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND MORE FORMAL SOCIAL INTERACTIONS.

Simon De Courcey, Director of Cultural Capital

Falinge Park High School

“ WE HAVE HAD A FANTASTIC TIME HOSTING THE STUDENTS AND HOPE THEY HAD A GREAT TIME TOO. WE'LL SAVE THE FORMAT FOR NEXT YEAR SO WE'RE GOOD TO GO!

Holly Watson – Head of Talent Development

McCann Manchester

## CASE STUDY: McCANN MANCHESTER COMINO SUMMER SCHOOL

### LEARNERS EXPERIENCE THE REALITY OF WORKING IN A TOP ADVERTISING AGENCY

As a world leader, the UK marketing and advertising sector offers huge job opportunities for creative young people; yet this remains an opaque world of 'who you know not what you know'. This ground breaking programme took hand-picked young people from NWCC schools into the heart of agency life to demystify campaign development, and begin to gain insights into how they can plot an achievable path to employment in the dynamic and hugely inspiring sector. McCann Manchester, is one of the North West's biggest and most awarded advertising agencies and a pioneer for equal opportunities for the sector, having one of the only advertising apprenticeship programmes in the north of England. For over a decade the Comino Foundation have collaborated with the McCann team to offer this inclusive work experience model for younger creative talent, which has also served as a perfect pre-cursor for young people to apply for the McCann advertising apprenticeship..

This year 38 young people attended the immersive two-day experience in McCann Manchester's glossy Cheshire site, Bonis Hall, Prestbury and worked with inspirational professional mentors to develop a 'pitch' to McCann clients, Smyths Toys. Competing teams of young people 'pitched' their ideas at a competitive final judged by some of the agencies senior leading staff. Throughout the process a wide range of job roles were modelled by specialist mentors who worked directly with individual teams to scaffold their experience.

#### Participating Schools:

The Derby High School

Falinge Park High School

Ladybridge High School

St Gabriel's RC High School

Sacred Heart RC Primary School

#### Partners:

Comino Foundation

McCann Manchester

#### Meets Gatsby Benchmarks: 3,4,5,6.

Nurtures Learners' Social and Career Capital





“

WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR GIVING  
OUR WONDERFUL LEARNERS THIS AMAZING OPPORTUNITY  
TO EXPERIENCE THIS GLIMPSE INTO THE WORLD OF MARKETING.  
IT HAS HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT ON MANY OF THEM.

Deputy Head  
Ladybridge High School





# McCANN ADVERTISING AGENCY PLACEMENT WEEKS FOR Y11 LEARNERS

In addition to attending Summer School 3 earlier graduates from the programme were thrilled to work with Comino Foundation and McCann Manchester this year to arrange their own bespoke one week work experience placements at this amazing agency. This transformational experience means these 3 talented pupils have their a foot firmly on the first rung of the ladder to a brilliant future career.

**Participating Schools:**

- The Derby High School
- Falinge Park High School

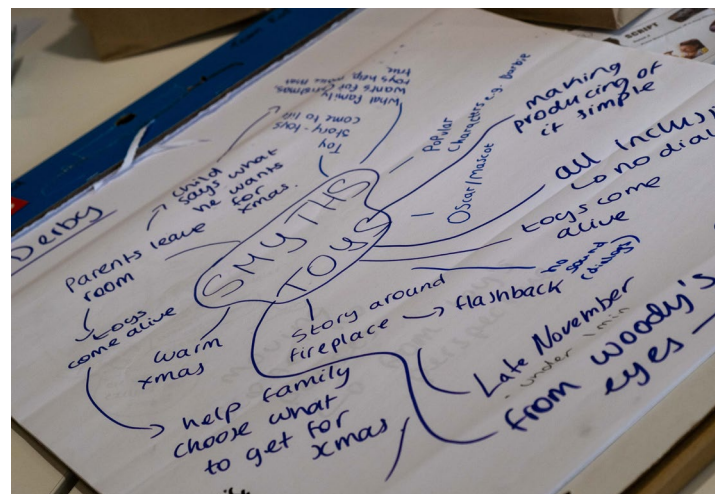
**Partners:**

- Comino Foundation
- McCann Manchester

**Meets Gatsby Benchmarks:** 2,3,4,5,6 &7  
Nurtures Learners' Social and Career Capital









“THE LINK WE HAVE MADE WITH CLOUD IMPERIUM HAS BEEN **INSPIRATIONAL FOR PUPILS.** SO MANY HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN THE GAME DESIGN SECTOR BUT WE HAVE **NOT MANAGED TO MAKE LINKS BEFORE,** THIS LINK HAS ALLOWED PUPILS TO **BETTER UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT JOBS WITHIN THE SECTOR AND HAS MADE THIS CAREER SEEM MORE REALISTIC - SOMETHING FOR THEM NOT FOR SOMEONE ELSE.**”

**Careers Manager**

*Abraham Moss Community School*

## CASE STUDY: CLOUD EMPORIUM GAMES CAMP

### LEARNERS WORK WITH TOP GAMES PROFESSIONALS TO PITCH IDEAS FOR NEW CONTENT

Another of Manchester's newest and most exciting digital employers is the US based games company 'Cloud Imperium Games'. We were privileged to work with this company for the first time in 2023 and when we approached them to ask if they would help support an engagement request from Abraham Moss Community High School they responded with huge enthusiasm and a substantial staff response. The company was founded in 2021 in Austin Texas and their inclusive and open business model differentiates itself from its competitors by unprecedented levels of community engagement. Pupils selected to attend this one day pilot 'Games Pitch Camp' were blown away by the access they were given to Cloud Imperium's immersive platforms, and the incredible skills and career insights given by the team of four exceptionally talented staff who devised and ran the day. This one day pilot allowed the Manchester Cloud Imperium team to evaluate and learn from the young people, in order to work with us on a proposal for a multi NWCC school event in 2023.24.

#### **Participating Schools:**

Abraham Moss Community High School

#### **Partners:**

Comino Foundation

Cloud Imperium Games

#### **Meets Gatsby Benchmarks:** 2,3,4,5,6.

Nurtures Learners' Social and Career Capital







“THE MFL NETWORK HAS BEEN A VALUABLE RESOURCE THIS YEAR FOR ME AS A MIDDLE LEADER AND THE WIDER FACULTY. IT HAS PROVIDED US WITH A DYNAMIC PLATFORM FOR COLLABORATION, KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND FOSTERING A SENSE OF LEARNING. THE COMINO NETWORK HAS ENRICHED OUR LANGUAGE PROVISION AND HAS ALSO FACILITATED A DEEPER SENSE OF COMMUNITY AMONG THE OTHER MFL COMINO STAKEHOLDERS. THE PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERTISE SHARED WITHIN THIS NETWORK HAVE INSPIRED US TO INNOVATE AND STEP OUTSIDE OUR NORMAL WAY OF DOING THINGS!

MFL Teacher KS3&4

Falinge Park High School

## CASE STUDY: ESTABLISHING A MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

### MFL STAFF WORK TOGETHER ACROSS SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE PRACTICE

One of the real benefits that consistent Comino Foundation funding lends our NWCC community; is that we are able to respond with enthusiasm to ideas put forward from the grass roots by staff teams in schools. This year the consortium reached into the Modern Foreign Language departments, inspired directly by a request from a teacher from St Monica's High School to Comino Foundation who asked us to support the establishment of a MFL Film Club for MFL pupils across the consortium. We had our first screening of the celebrated Spanish film director, Guillermo de Toro's, Pan's Labyrinth, in Spanish, at The Met Theatre in January to a very full house of pupils from across Greater Manchester, with at least 75% of the young people in the room, coming from Manchester's most socially deprived wards. The film itself is hailed as a triumph of Spanish cinema for it's allegorical and political analysis of the Spanish Civil War, and one of our new MFL teacher champions, Laura Thomson from Falinge Park High School, produced a superb teaching resource which was then used by MFL peers across the consortium back in their own schools to discuss and debate both the history of the Spanish civil war and greater international issues around war and conflict.

Through the evaluation session for this pilot, teachers spoke of how the experience had resulted in young people being 'more invested in their GCSE work', 'started a process of wider engagement with Spanish culture', and 'provided tangible language links from what they are learning in class to the world of cinema, which they found exciting'. They told us how cultural experiences such as these are particularly important for their pupil cohorts whose families are unable to pay for the European trips, that many of their peers taking the same GCSE's will have programmed into their courses.

#### Participating Schools:

The Derby High School  
Falinge Park High School  
Ladybridge High School  
St Gabriel's RC High School  
St Monica's RC High School  
Abraham Moss Community High School

#### Partners:

Comino Foundation  
The Met, Bury  
Into Film charity

#### Meets Gatsby Benchmarks: 3,4,5,6.

Nurtures Learners' Social, Cultural and Career Capital





All schools also shared concerns about low MFL recruitment at Year 9 options, and felt that if Year 8 pupils were able to experience some of the enjoyment and motivation experienced by Year 9 pupils at the film screening, recruitment might be higher. The success of film school meant headteachers were happy to support a blue-skies CPD day for MFL staff and the outcome from that session has provided a bigger and more aspirational cultural enhancement project for Year 8 pupils next year. This project 'Spain without a Passport, builds on some excellent practice developed by individual schools over recent years and will aim to provide Year 8 pupils with a simulated visit to a Spanish village. 'Shops' and other consumer opportunities will be lead by teachers, and pupils will engage with the 'offer' using the Spanish language to role play interactions as both consumers and providers.

“

THE TIME SPENT ON THE PLANNING DAY FOR THE COMINO MFL GROUP WAS **INVALUABLE**: IT WAS SO **UPLIFTING** TO SHARE EXPERIENCES, IDEAS AND PLANS WITH OTHER MFL TEACHERS, AND DEBORAH. I LEFT FEELING **THOROUGHLY INSPIRED AND EXCITED** FOR THE PROJECT WE HAVE PLANNED AND CAN'T WAIT TO **SHARE THE EXPERIENCE** WITH LEARNERS. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE AN **ENRICHING AND WORTHWHILE PROJECT**, FOR BOTH THEM AND ME.

**MFL Teacher**  
*Ladybridge High School*



“LISTENING TO THE **INSPIRATIONAL JASON ARDAY** HAS GIVEN OUR STUDENTS THE BELIEF THAT THEY CAN **OBTAIN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE EDUCATED IN ONE OF THE COUNTRIES ELITE UNIVERSITIES**. MOREOVER, THE REASSURANCE THAT THEIR **DIFFERENCES WILL BE CELEBRATED** RATHER THAN STRATIFIED.

**Lynn Provost**

*The Derby High School*

## CASE STUDY: **JASON ARDAY VISITS NWCC SCHOOLS**

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE'S YOUNGEST BLACK PROFESSOR SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE OF LEADING SOCIAL CHANGE WITH LEARNERS

Professor Jason Arday is a highly respected scholar of race, inequality and education, with a particular interest in improving the representation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people in higher education. This year, at 37, he was the youngest Black person ever appointed to a professorship at Cambridge, with a mission to use this platform to inspire more people from under-represented backgrounds into higher education. Gill Houghton, from The East Manchester Academy was inspired by Professor Arday's story to ask Comino Foundation if there was any way they would be able to bring him to the North West to talk to students in NWCC schools. With the support of Comino Foundation's networks we were thrilled to be able host Professor Arday at The East Manchester Academy in June 2023 to talk to a rapt audience of pupils from many NWCC schools. Pupils were visibly moved and inspired by Professor Arday's story and the degree to which his commitment to raising equality is rooted in experience. Arday has faced many personal challenges – notably being diagnosed, at the age of three, with a form of Autism Spectrum Disorder which meant he was unable to speak until he was 11, or to read or write until much later. Other parts of his story, however, epitomise the significant barriers that neurodivergent individuals, those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and Black, Asian and minority ethnic people face when trying to build careers in the sector.

#### **Participating Schools:**

The Derby High School  
The East Manchester Academy  
St Monica's RC High School

#### **Partners:**

Comino Foundation  
University of Cambridge Outreach

#### **Meets Gatsby Benchmarks:** 3,4,5,7

Nurtures Learners' Social, Cultural and Career Capital







“THE WORKSHOPS WERE **EMPOWERING AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING** FOR OUR PUPILS. KRISH AND MADIHA QUICKLY **BUILT GREAT RELATIONSHIPS** WITH THE PUPILS, PUTTING THEM AT EASE, MAKING THEM LAUGH AND TAKE PART IN NUANCED DISCUSSIONS. I COULD ALSO SEE HOW **POSITIVE AND ENERGISED PUPILS WERE** AFTER THE 1-2-1 INTERVIEWS. KRISH AND MADIHA WERE **SENSITIVE TO THE TRAUMAS SOME PUPILS CARRY**, AS WELL AS THEIR ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEEDS. THE PROJECT SO FAR HAS BEEN **SO IMPORTANT** AS PART OF OUR EFFORT TO **ENSURE INTERNATIONAL NEW ARRIVAL PUPILS FEEL THEY BELONG AND ARE HEARD IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY**. IT WAS SUCH A PLEASURE HAVING KRISH AND MADIHA IN THE SCHOOL!

**EAL Teacher**

*Abraham Moss Community High School*

## CASE STUDY: TALES TO INSPIRE

### INSPIRATIONAL LIFE STORIES FROM SOME OF OUR COMMUNITIES MOST VULNERABLE LEARNERS

Teachers and senior leaders in all NWCC schools continue to feel the impact of the Covid pandemic through the social, emotional and behavioural difficulties experienced by an alarming number of their pupils. A recent study by the BBC found that there has been a 77% rise in the number of children needing specialist treatment for serious mental health problems in the UK and in some schools, particularly those within neighbourhoods of high social disadvantage, there are some children for whom the pandemic only exacerbated the emotional scars of lives lived in trauma.

This project gave schools a safe space for some their most vulnerable pupils to 'share their story'. Pupils were able to talk about racism, gender, disability and what it has meant to be homeless or stateless, with skilled adults who helped them find power and resilience for the future by understanding how their difficult life experiences may have impacted on their emotional lives. The organization leading the project, 'Tales to Inspire' is a collective organization of inspirational social leaders who have learnt through experience, that storytelling engages emotion and provides young people with a platform to connect with others, where they can authentically reflect with meaning and purpose on their lives, and begin to develop a positive framework and identity for the future; and where they can experience the therapeutic benefits of what it means to be seen, heard and in control of their own narrative.

#### **Participating Schools:**

The Derby High School  
Abraham Moss Community High School  
St Monica's RC High School.

#### **Partners:**

Tales to Inspire

#### **Meets Gatsby Benchmark: 3**

Nurtures Learners' Social, Cultural and Career Capital





Pupils worked with the Tales to Inspire team in their own school, in small nurture groups of 5. to engage in an intensive two day experience of talks, workshops and discussions, which lead to them documenting their own story with a Tales to Inspire ambassador. Each story has since been written up by a professional 'Tales to Inspire' writer to form a book which will be published by Comino Foundation. All pupils have been given copies of their own stories to share as they wish, and all pupils were asked if they wanted to . Most were strongly positive about having their stories read by all, but a few preferred to keep their stories private so these will not appear in the book

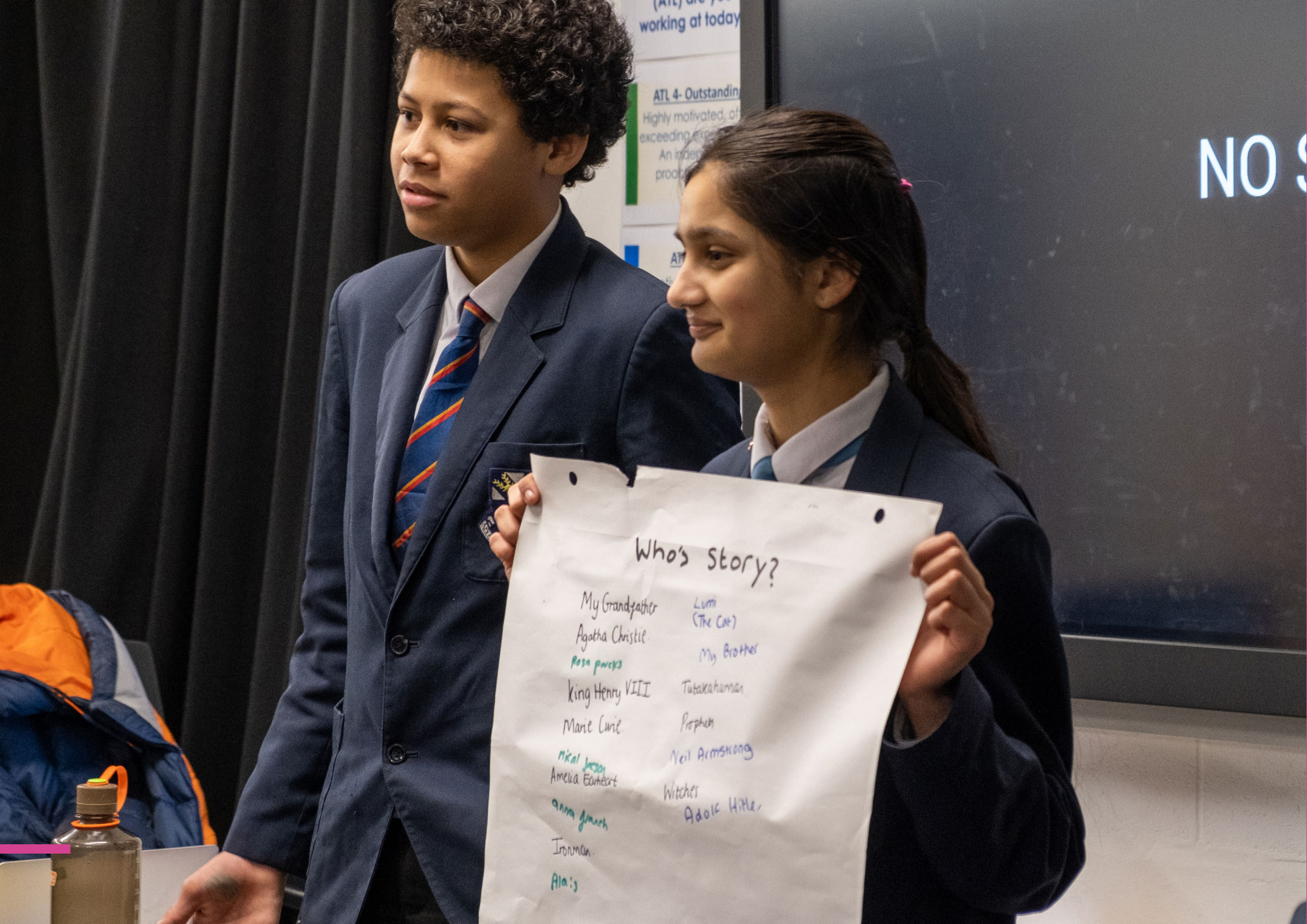
“

**STORIES HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE POWER TO ALLOW US TO SEE THE WORLD IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN WE DO IF WE JUST ENCOUNTER IT ON OUR OWN. STORIES ARE AN ENTRY POINT TO UNDERSTANDING A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE OF THE WORLD.**

**Clare Patey**

*'The Empathy Museum'*





“ AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME THE MOST CONFIDENT VERSION OF THEMSELVES, EMBRACE THEIR WONDERFUL PERSONALITIES AND OWN THEIR STORIES. INSPIRED BY KRISH’S WORK, FIVE OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EMBARKING ON THEIR OWN CHANGEMAKERS’ JOURNEY. IN JULY THEY WILL TRAVEL TO THAILAND TO TEACH IN A THAI PRIMARY SCHOOL AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE TSUNAMI RECOVERY PROJECT AND RAINFOREST CONSERVATION WORK.

Lynn Provoost  
The Derby High School



“**WOW! WHAT AN INCREDIBLE DAY HAD BY THE CHILDREN (AND ADULTS)! THE CHILDREN MADE MEMORIES AND HAD AN EXPERIENCE THAT THEY CERTAINLY WILL NEVER FORGET. THE ABSTRACT ART PIECES THAT THEY CREATED LOOKED FANTASTIC. THE CHILDREN WERE SO KEEN TO TELL ALL ADULTS AND OTHER CHILDREN ABOUT THEIR LEARNING THAT DAY AND WERE SO ENTHUSED WHILST TELLING EVERYONE. THEY COULD ARTICULATE THEIR LEARNING CLEARLY. IT IS GREAT THAT THEY WERE EXPOSED TO CROSS-CURRICULAR LEARNING THAT WAS SO WELL-PREPARED AND THOUGHT OUT. THE SCIENCE/ART KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE GAINED, THEY WILL REMEMBER FOREVER. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR GIVING THEM THIS OPPORTUNITY. AN OPPORTUNITY, THAT THESE CHILDREN OTHERWISE WOULD NOT GET. WE HOPE THIS COMINO PROJECT CONTINUES SO THAT IT CAN CONTINUE TO CHANGE LIVES AND CREATE EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN DEPRIVED AREAS.**

**Primary Science Lead**

*Alice Ingham RC Primary School*

## CASE STUDY: **SUN, SPACE, ART**

**PRIMARY LEARNERS CREATIVE SPACE WORK WITH EMERITUS  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, DR HELEN MASON**

Dr Helen Mason is an internationally renowned Solar Physicist from University of Cambridge, who works in collaboration with artists to co-create inspirational and immersive science/art projects in primary schools. Dr Mason is a European Space Agency Ambassador and her projects have won the Arthur C. Clark award for education and outreach over several years. Comino Foundation have worked with Sun.Space.Art in NWCC primary schools for many years and we were delighted to welcome the team back to the North West to lead projects in schools to work with old friends and new. This year the team tasked primary children to create solar pop-up cards and booklets, using paper craft to communicate some unique and intriguing facts about the sun. We were also delighted to bring Dr Mason and her team back into Sacred Heart Teaching Alliance for a two day festival of art/science making with trainee teachers.

### **Participating Schools:**

Abraham Moss Community Primary School  
Alice Ingham RC Primary School  
Sacred Heart Teaching Alliance

### **Partners:**

Comino Foundation  
Sun.Space.Art

### **Meets Gatsby Benchmark:** 3, 4, 7

Nurtures Learners' Social and Cultural Capital





**“SUNSPACEART PROVIDED OUR CHILDREN WITH HANDS ON ACTIVITIES THAT BROADENED THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF SPACE AND MADE CLEAR LINKS TO THE LEARNING THEY HAD UNDERTAKEN. HAVING WORKED WITH THE SUNSPACEART TEAM FOR A FEW YEARS NOW, I HAVE SEEN FIRST HAND THE ENRICHMENT THIS PROVIDES AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT IT HAS ON OUR CHILDREN; NOT JUST IN THEIR ACADEMIC ABILITIES AND SKILLS BUT ALSO PROVIDING ASPIRATION. SPEAKING TO REAL LIFE SCIENTISTS AND ARTISTS WHO HAVE WORKED WITH SUCH LARGE AND INFLUENTIAL ORGANISATIONS HAS SHOWN OUR CHILDREN HOW THEIR LEARNING IN SCHOOL CAN TAKE THEM TO GREAT HEIGHTS, AND THAT SUCH GOALS ARE ACHIEVABLE. DR HELEN AND ARTIST HELEN ARE ALSO DILIGENT IN ENSURING THEY ARE FULLY PREPARED FOR ALL NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN THEY INTERACT WITH. OUR COLLABORATION WITH SUNSPACEART IS ALWAYS A STANDOUT IN THE YEAR FOR THE CHILDREN AND POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR BOTH THEM AND STAFF.**

Primary Science Lead

Abraham Moss Community Primary School



“**MUSICAL FUTURES’ TRAINING PROVIDES A USEFUL WAY OF REVISIONING THE MUSIC CURRICULUM, PROVIDING RELEVANCE AND FLEXIBILITY IN TEACHING AND LEARNING, DIRECTLY TAILORED TO STUDENT INTERESTS. THE PROVISION OFFERS REASSURANCE AND OWNERSHIP TO MUSIC SPECIALISTS AND NON-SPECIALISTS ALIKE TO CO-CREATE PROVISION THAT EXCITES AND CHALLENGES YOUNG PEOPLE IN EQUAL MEASURE. THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE THE TRAINING GENERATES HAS REAL LEGACY AND LONG-TERM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GAINS FOR STAFF AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE.**

**Music Teacher**  
Falinge Park High School

## CASE STUDY: MUSICAL FUTURES

### SHARING PIONEERING MUSIC EDUCATION PRACTICE ACROSS SCHOOLS

Musical Futures is an approach to teaching music that aims to provide teachers with resources and training in order to provide authentic practical music learning to learners, which is relevant and starts from the music that they enjoy, like and identify with. The project was originally a Paul Hamlyn special initiative and is now a not-for-profit organisation working closely with music teachers across the country and internationally.

In 2023 music staff from all NWCC schools were supported to join the programme including a one day launch event which introduced resources and methodologies and registration for a full year of access to the huge body of online resources which have been developed for teachers by teachers.

#### Participating Schools:

Abraham Moss Community High School  
Ladybridge High School  
The Derby High School  
St Monica’s RC High School

#### Partners:

Comino Foundation

#### Meets Gatsby Benchmark: 3, 4, 7.

Nurtures Learners’ Social and Cultural Capital

“

**THE MUSICAL FUTURES RESOURCE HAS BEEN AN ESSENTIAL RESOURCE, BREAKING DOWN SOME OF THE BARRIERS, SUCH AS NOTATION, TO MAKING MUSIC ACCESSIBLE TO ALL. PUPILS CAN EXPERIENCE THE REAL JOY OF ENSEMBLE PLAYING WHILST HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY POPULAR INSTRUMENTS. IT HAS TRANSFORMED WHOLE CLASS ENSEMBLES IN MY SCHOOL.**

**Subject Lead for Music**  
Abraham Moss Community School



# OTHER MOMENTS TO CELEBRATE







## COMINO STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARDS

We work with hundreds of young people across the Comino consortium and like to celebrate those students who have excelled in achievement in a particular creative project. The following students have been nominated by their schools to receive the prestigious Comino glass award inscribed with their name and to take home as a keepsake.

### Congratulations to all Creative scholars from 2022/2023



Ella Ford	Sacred Heart RC Primary School
Shrey Tandel	Sacred Heart RC Primary School
Abraham Enabulele	St Monica's RC High School
Thomas Holmes	Falinge Park High School
Taiwo Kiyadi	The East Manchester Academy
Chloe Bill	St Gabriel's RC High School
Bonita Norfolk	The Derby High School
Zainab Saeed	Ladybridge High School
Hilya Mamada	Abraham Moss Community Primary School
Maram Ghali	Abraham Moss Community High School
Kendall Williams	Alice Ingham RC Primary School
Zidan Malik	St Gregory's RC Primary School



## DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL LINKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Two of our core Comino North West team, Deborah Davidson & Jo Sliwa were invited by MADE (Manchester's Cultural Education Partnership) to visit colleagues from the Bornekultarhuset (Children's Culture House) in Aarhus, Denmark. This amazing opportunity offered our organisation insight into the opportunities for young people and educators in Denmark, the range of cultural opportunities in Aarhus and the differences in our education systems.

During the visit both were struck by how culture and education permeate every stage of a child's learning experience. From the amazing Dock One library where art, play and literacy are brought together in a custom-built space full of light and wonder to the Gender Museum where historical context and frank openness supports young people and educators in talking about gender and sexuality.

Like NWCC, the Bornekultarhuset are funded to support a lead partner in each Aarhus school, nurturing the relationship with partners to offer both off the peg and tailored opportunities to expand the ambition and vision of both the educators and young people they work with. Having their own building has allowed them to develop place-based experiences, the most recent turning their basement space into a dock where children dress up and role play before boarding a moving ship to learn about emigration. In the schools we visited learning was experiential and fostered creative enquiry and independence.

The curriculum structure offers time to develop in depth work across subjects as staff often have classes for multiple subjects in large blocks of time. Cycling with a whole class to the centre of town for a visit to a gallery or museum is commonplace and therefore young people in Aarhus feel a shared ownership of cultural opportunities around them. Opportunities to see how education and arts are integrated in other cultures is a privilege and the visit gave us many opportunities for reflection. For us we came away very grateful that NWCC supports us with an expansive vision of education which encourages us to work creatively across disciplines.

*The rainbow panorama on the roof of ARoS Aarhus Art Museum is a spectacular artwork made of the Danish/Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson. The circular masterpiece is a 150-meter-long and three-meter-wide walkway made of glass in all the colours of the rainbow with 360° views over Aarhus city and bay. NWCCs Jo Sliwa, Deborah Davidson and MADE colleagues enjoy panoramic views of the city from within the walkway space.*





## WHAT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH COMINO FOUNDATION HAS MEANT TO ME

This year has been a significant time for me professionally as I left mainstream education after 25 years. Giving up a role in which your identity is so entwined with what you do can bring about a sense of loss, excitement, bewilderment and anticipation. It also brings about a sense of reflection in terms of what has been given to you and what has been in your gift to others.

There is no doubt that Comino has played a huge part in my development as a leader, from meeting Pat Walters back in 2013 in the office of Marie Garside and she decided to take a chance on me; to working with Lynn Provoost on our fantastic debate back in 2014 (meeting Mumtaz for the first time – and losing a pupil at Euston and then even more on the tram); to building a professional and personal friendship with Professor Lynne Bianchi which has weaved its way into a variety of different strands both in STEM and out of it – and there's far more to come here!

When I look back on the areas of my career I am proud of and where my work has taken me and the new paths that I am forging, there is always a silver thread connecting the opportunities to Comino. These opportunities have taken me to places I would never have thought possible (who would have thought someone like me would be invited to Windsor castle more than once!), met people outside of my realm of experiences and had my voice heard and to which I will be eternally grateful. But, on reflection, it is the courage and bravery I have gained from being part of Comino for 10 years and just listening to and reflecting on what could be different that has been my greatest gift from you all.

I realise now that leaving a well paid, secure job as a Headteacher \*many\* years before I'm due to retire is perhaps not the road well travelled. However, the silver thread from Comino has weaved itself into a tapestry that I'm now the author. It's not finished, but it's looking fairly beautiful. As I lead The Education Community Partnership into a new world where I can focus on those children on the margins and make real change, I want to take the time to thank you at Comino for your belief in me. Everybody needs someone to look out for them and, as I have said many times to my parents, Comino and all of you there have been my mentor, my guide, my investor and, quite often, my guardian angel. Thank you specifically to Jose who put me forward for an event which was quite life changing in the way I viewed education and what could be.

I used a quote from George Bernard Shaw many times at Falinge where I was the Head. In fact, we had it put up on our wall I liked it that much.

You see things; and you say 'why?';  
But I dream of things that never were; and I say 'why not?'

You helped me say 'why not?', because that is what you say, and I hope we can continue to cause 'good trouble' together in the future.

**Janice Allen**

*Education Community Partnership -*

*Previously Headteacher of Falinge Park High School*





Thank you to Comino trustees for their generous practical support and advice. Not only do our trustees make decisions about the Comino Foundation they are always on hand to support our projects and take an active interest with their specific skills when they are able.

And not forgetting the headteachers, lead practitioners, teachers and cultural business partners - of which none of this magic would happen without their commitment.

**Strategic Manager** - Pat Walters  
**Development Lead** - Deborah Davidson



**Mumtaz Bashir** shares her business experience with pupils at Sacred Heart primary school.



**Bill Lucas** works with trainee teachers on rethinking assessment.



**Amrit Singh** visits the Derby high school to launch the power of 6 maths project.



**Anna Comino-James** wrote to all our schools who were thrilled to receive the trustee praises and was even mentioned on twitter.





Our work is only possible with the support of all the incredible volunteers who have given their time and enthusiasm so freely this year and over many years. The young people in our schools and colleges will remember the experiences you have created for them for many years to come.

**AECOM**

**British  
Future...**

**Christian  
Wakeford MP,  
Westminster**

**CLOUD**  
IMPERIUM

**commonword**

**INTO  
FILM**

**James Frith**

**w6**  
theatre company

**Manchester  
Central  
Library**

**Manchester  
Poetry  
Library**

**Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University**

**McCANN**  
MANCHESTER

**Peel L&P**  
REALISING POSSIBILITY

**Rich Jones**

**ROCHDALE**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**SCIENCE+  
INDUSTRY  
MUSEUM**

**ScreenSkills**

**SunSpaceArt**

**Tales  
to  
Inspire.**

**MET  
X  
WH**

**NATIONAL  
FOOTBALL  
MUSEUM**

**THE  
PORTICO  
LIBRARY**

**RBL**  
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**the Whitworth**

**UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**

**ureenco**  
The Energy to Succeed

**Z  
arts**



