

DURHAM SCHOOLS PREPARE TO CELHUBRATE

A ground-breaking three-year project aimed at developing children and young people's interest in arts, theatre and dance by forging closer links with regional arts and cultural organisations is coming to a close with a whole host of celebrations planned throughout July.

Chosen as one of only three locations in the country to be designated a Cultural Hub in 2005, Durham has seen a significant £1.3m investment into 10 core schools and six cultural organisations in the North East with the aim of giving young people access to a full and active cultural life.

"Over the past three years some of the region's flagship cultural organisations – Baltic, Beamish Museum, Dance City, Durham County Libraries, Durham County Record Office and Seven Stories - have built up effective partnerships with these designated schools that will have a long-lasting legacy for all involved," said Tony Harrington, director of The Forge, the specialist creative agency that facilitated Cultural Hub Durham.

"At the heart of the scheme is the belief that young people have the right to be both the consumers and creators of culture," he said.

This is something that Dance City will illustrate with its final Cultural Hub project '*Around the World*'. "Dance City and around 15 creative practitioners are working intensively across eight of the 10 core schools to encourage a pupil led approach in planning, development and delivery, which will then be linked back to the schools," explained Mr Harrington.

This exploration of multiculturalism through dance and storytelling will culminate in a week-long celebration (June 30 – July 4) when young people will take over the Dance City building to share, make and experience creative products and ideas. Pupils from Chester-le-street's Buillion Lane Primary School will also act as reporters during the week, shadowing staff as part of the experience.

"Effective partnership working and joint planning between the cultural and education sectors has been instrumental to the success of this initiative. Programmes have worked in collaboration with one another to create a plethora of fantastic work that be showcased, shared enjoyed and experience during the **CeIHUBrate** period in July 2008 culminating the three year programme," added Mr Harrington.

To find out more about Cultural Hubs Durham please go to www.intheforge.com

The Forge

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

Other Partner project launches as part of the CeIHUBrate programme include:

Recognition awards ceremony

01.07.08 (13:15 arrivals, 13:30 – 15:00)

Gala Theatre

A recognition ceremony for all Durham Hub schools to enjoy an afternoon celebrating success as part of the Cultural Hubs initiative. The event will be compered by The Suggestibles. The ceremony will provide a platform to share experiences through commissioned mini films, as well as teacher and young people's reflections.

Poetry road show

03.06.08 – 17.07.08

Various venues

Seven Stories in partnership with a range of schools and libraries developed a project in response to school, libraries and community settings needs. Providing a bridge between school sessions and family learning, with long term sustainability built into them.

The programme has explored published poetry for children through different activities, developing enthusiasm from young people for writing their own poetry as well as acquiring skills. Methodologies for activities have ensured children's input to a final travelling workshop tour.

Poetry writing resources for schools and a published anthology of children's writing will add value to outcomes from this programme..

Religion and cultures education resource

27.06.08, 13:30 onwards

St John's RCVA Comprehensive School, A Technology College

Beamish in partnership with St Johns will showcase their interactive resource developed for teachers at St Johns in school celebration day.

Lambsdragon launch of Media resource

08.07.80, 16:30 – 18:30

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art

BALTIC, with pupils and staff from Durham Gilesgate Sixth Form Centre have developed an exciting new online game called **Lamdragon** with the aim of providing a fabulous new resource which young people (and the young at heart!) can use to find out more about contemporary art and BALTIC.

Suffragettes

17.07.08, All day

Beamish High street

Dance City and Beamish in partnership with pupils from Gilesgate celebrate the history of the suffragette movement with a very different kind of parade through the streets of Beamish High Street.

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the **specialist** participatory arts organisation

MEDIA CONTACT:

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