

Watts Gallery Visit - March 2022

The Arts Society Cranleigh Volunteering Young Arts team, using part of the Community Grant we received from the Arts Society, took sixteen Year 11 students from Glebelands School, Cranleigh to visit Watts Gallery, Compton, Guildford for a tour and a Pottery workshop. Two members of the volunteering team accompanied the trip.

On a beautiful Spring morning, the group were split into two, and were given a tour of the main gallery, the Chapel and the newly re-opened Artist's House, Limnerslease. They then went on to sketch in the Sculpture room to formulate some ideas for the ceramic tile they would create later.

The pottery workshop was led by a freelance artist who demonstrated how to make a tile inspired by the Chapel and William De Morgan ceramics. This tour and workshop fitted in perfectly with the students coursework as due to Covid their Art exam has been scrapped and they will be assessed on their coursework and sketchbooks, so this provided an ideal opportunity to add some interesting sketches to their books.

In class they are also working on a ceramic hand holding an object that reflects their identity so the workshop helped them learn new skills and techniques that they would be able to take back to the classroom to support their clay hand pieces.

All in all it was a very successful trip and we received some fantastic feedback from the Art Teacher and the students:

"the trip was really inspiring"

"we had an amazing time"

"it was a really great day out and very fun"

It is so satisfying for the Volunteering team to hear such enthusiastic comments and to know that the students had fun, were inspired and encouraged to learn new skills. We are thrilled that we are able to give local students these opportunities with the support of The Arts Society Cranleigh and the Community Grant.

The Watts Gallery is based at Downs Lane, Compton, Guildford, GU3 1DQ and is open daily including Bank Holidays from 10.30am - 5pm. It is a well worth a visit if you have not been as plenty to see and a lovely tea room too!



The students being briefed on the objectives of the workshops before starting work on their own creations, with some of the final designs, shown here.



Watts Chapel, designed by Mary Watts and created by Mary and the local people of Compton, who attended her terracotta pottery workshops. Watts Chapel is recognised as one of the most original and fascinating buildings in Britain, a fusion of art nouveau, Celtic, Romanesque and individual style.

