

Year 10 Art Trip to Roche Court



The 28th June 2021 didn't start in the most promising way. Heavy rain and dark skies threatened to ruin our long awaited trip out even before the morning got properly underway. However, once our coach arrived at our venue – Roche Court Sculpture Park in East Winterslow, the rain appeared to have stopped, although the forecast and grey clouds didn't look too good.

Our group of 27 yr10 Art GCSE students was split into 2 groups and was assigned an educational guide. Our learned guide then took us on a journey around the beautiful landscaped grounds to view sculpture made in a huge range of scales, materials and using a wide range of processes. Artists, whose work we viewed included Barbara Hepworth, Peter Randall Page, Laura Ford and Barry Flanagan amongst many others.



Students were encouraged to express their own feelings and thoughts about each art work. Our guides gave us some really useful contextual information about ideas that the Artist wanted to convey but only after students had been given the chance to respond by talking, drawing and experiencing each sculpture as fully as possible. This included walking around and underneath the Art, touching selected sculptures and even sitting on one of them to gaze at the clouds.



As the morning progressed, the wet weather conditions became less noticeable as students drew the sculptural forms they were led to. Students were actively encouraged to work outside of their comfort zone. Continuous line drawings, drawing with the less dominant hand and layering drawings on top of each other were explored. The group I was accompanying even drew with scissors, creating fabulous paper cut outs in response to a metal sculpture depicting the form of a bluebell, created by Paul Morrison.



By the time lunchtime arrived the sun had come out and some students decided to brave the damp grass with the aid of a waterproof picnic blanket and eat their lunch outside in the rural grounds. Afterwards we finished our tour and got back onto the coach armed with our drawings and the knowledge that our own often unique ideas and reactions to works of Art are not only valid but encouraged and are indeed what motivates Artists to create their work.

Students' drawings, notes and experiences will now be utilised in their GCSE portfolio work, particularly in their Mock exam and exam projects where they are encouraged to work in a very independent and explorative way.

Roche Court or the New Art Centre as it is also known, is open daily to members of the public and I highly recommend it for a lovely and thought provoking day out with the family. For further details please take a look at their website: <https://www.sculpture.uk.com/visit> or contact them to book a visit on the email address or tel. number below.

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