

ALDRIDGE JUNIOR SIGNATURE ART PRIZE

- PROJECT REPORT -

Our mission: The Foundation supports 7,000 young people living in some of the most deprived areas of the UK. We believe that it is unfair for a young person's experience and opportunities to be limited by where they come from. We believe every young person deserves an equal chance in life, so we are committed to creating initiatives to provide young people with invaluable, inspiring and informative experiences, helping them to develop life and employability skills, and support them on their journeys to the productive and rewarding lives they choose to live. This report focuses on one of our programmes' inspiring experience and its outcomes and impact.

Programme: Inspire – Opening Eyes. Our Inspire programme offers students experiences to raise ambitions, build confidence, explore different career options and widen their world views.

Experience: Aldridge Junior Signature Art Prize. An art competition exclusively for Aldridge schools run alongside an international competition for professional artists in the early stages of their careers.

Aim: Open students' eyes to their potential, inspire them regarding opportunities to pursue different career pathways in the arts sector, and celebrate their skills and achievements.

Desired impact: Raise knowledge of arts career opportunities across all Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 (3293 students), encourage at least 50 students to enter the competition in its inaugural year, create in-depth arts experiences for all shortlisted students and provide arts industry internships for all four competition winners. The Prize has potential to inspire students and give them the confidence to take the next steps along their career pathways, extend their professional networks, open doors and make a real difference to their futures. By giving students a goal to work towards and a chance to experience a world outside of their own, we not only expect to see their motivation for learning increase but also the confidence they have in their own abilities and their expectations of future success.

Experience Details: In 2019, the Foundation launched the Aldridge Junior Signature Art Prize in partnership with Artellite, one of the first online graduate art galleries, and Callsign, a leading cyber security firm. The Prize gives students an opportunity to enter work in to a professional exhibition and for those who are shortlisted, the chance to have their work judged by professionals from the sector, meet artists in the early stages of their careers and see their work professionally hung in a central London exhibition, alongside finalists of the international Signature Art Prize. Finalists have the potential to win an internship with Artellite, to sell their work at the exhibition and to gain advice and guidance on how they could further develop their skills, or routes into further education and arts careers.

2019/20 Outcomes:

3,293

students learnt about the competition, explored professional artists work and opportunities for employment in the arts sector.

250

guests attended the exhibition at the Bankside Hotel and viewed the student's work alongside professional artist's work.

39

student entries were received across the four categories.

12

student artist finalists, selected by a panel of industry experts, experienced a day in London of inspiring visits and talks at prestigious art galleries, learnt how an art exhibition is professionally hung and met professional artists in the early stages of their careers.

6

student artists sold their artwork through the exhibition and one student was approached regarding a possible commission.

4

student winners were offered a week-long internship with leading online art gallery, Artellite.



Our proud finalists with their work at the Signature Prize Exhibition.

"People have approached me for private commissions, which could sway my career to photography at a professional level."

Aedan, Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

"Taking part in the Junior Art Prize has made me feel really lucky and when I saw my work up, it made me feel really proud and overall amazing. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Azel, Darwen Aldridge Community Academy – Winner of the Textiles & Graphics category

"When I found out my work got shortlisted I felt really proud of myself and excited to find my piece hanging on the wall at the exhibition. It's the first time I've ever had the opportunity to do this and I am definitely thankful that I was encouraged to submit my work."

Salma, Kensington Aldridge Academy – Winner of the Fine Art category

"It has made me realise how amazing my work is."

Bryan, Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio – 2019/20 Junior Prize Finalist

"Experiencing having my work in an exhibition has inspired me to push to get my work in to more competitions and gallery exhibitions."

Connor, Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio – 2019/20 Junior Prize Finalist

"The competition has given our students a real insight in to how industry exhibitions work and already one of our students has sold a piece of their artwork. What that means to that student, you can't really describe it. As a teacher and as a school we are extremely proud that our students have been given this opportunity."

Jon Irwin, Photography Teacher, Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

"We have absolutely loved the whole concept of introducing the Junior Prize, which really resonated with our guests and clients alike and was reflected in their genuine appreciation of the students' artwork and their desire to own it, as well as to support and encourage these talented young artists to take their passion further."

Isobel Beauchamp Director & Co-Founder, Artellite Ltd



Student finalists visited the Tate Modern and Somerst House.

