

Spotlight on BTEC Art & Design



We spoke to Joe Corcoran, assistant head of Sixth Form at Jumeirah English Speaking School, about student Kate Williams-Parry, BTEC Art and Design student and BTEC Silver Award Winner at the BTEC Awards 2019.

Joe recounts the highlights of Kate's BTEC journey and tells us what it is about her that makes her a model BTEC student.



Q | What makes Kate a great example of vocational excellence?

A | This is the first year that the school has delivered the BTEC in Art & Design. Kate has been the perfect role model. She has given numerous talks to students from Years 10 & 11 regarding her projects, her onward path to Higher Education, how BTEC supported her and the benefits of BTEC. Kate appeared on Dubai Eye Radio for a one hour slot where she spoke about her experiences completing a BTEC programme. Her commitment to her studies has taken her beyond the classroom to Rome where she gave talks to students on Art History.

Q | Proactive and independent thinking are the hallmarks of a great BTEC student. Tell us how Kate displays these qualities.

A | Kate's portfolio is evidence in itself of an independent thinker. She has exhibited outside of school twice, worked at Dubai Art Fair during Year 12, worked at Jameel Arts Centre with Chiharu Shiota (famous artist). Her artwork requires planning, often requiring much outside work – photo shoots, shopping for extreme materials, visiting exhibitions. She spent the whole of last summer visiting six Art colleges across the UK, organized talks, visits, tours with each one herself. Kate uses a very broad range of materials and processes confidently through a process of independent self discovery.

Q | What makes Kate a role model to others?

A | Kate's impressive portfolio (which has been adjudged by the external SRV as beyond school level in terms of quality) has been a benchmark for students in the year below her and also those students undertaking Visual Arts in other qualifications in the school (IB, GCSE etc). Her independent learning skills combined with an inquiring nature have been an inspiration to her colleagues. She thinks critically and is never afraid to offer her opinions and insights on the work of her contemporaries. To summarise, Kate adds value to the Art Dept like very few before her.

Q | What is Kate going on to do now that her BTEC studies have finished?

A | Kate wanted to further her studies by taking a Bachelor of Fine Art programme, and applied to several UK universities which all offered her places. Kate has chosen to study at one of the top Art universities in the world – Central Saint Martins in London. She has been asked to join straight into the first year without the need for a Foundation year which most students have to complete – such is the strength of her work and portfolio thanks to her BTEC in Art & Design experience.



**For more information about
BTEC qualifications, please email**

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