

Press Release

Date: 05 March 2009

Dismal Education Standards, a Lack of Creative Learning, Appalling Pupil Behaviour - Why be a Teacher?!?

According to recent news stories, the state of UK education is dismal, and once again reports have highlighted the poor numeracy and literacy skills amongst the adult population in England.

The ongoing scrutiny of the education system is putting constant pressure on teachers and schools to improve standards and ensure pupils have a good grasp and understanding of subjects such as Maths and English. With the already heavy workload and expectation to develop innovative teaching methods to hold pupil attention in class, teaching no longer appears to be a fulfilling career.

But there is hope. For teachers urgently trying to fall in love with their jobs again and find fresh, creative ways to put the fun back into learning, Culture and Arts offers a new lifeline with the launch of its **U-CandU Education programme**.

It focuses on helping young people realise their potential and understand that they can achieve more than they think they can. U-CandU projects focus on the National Curriculum for primary and secondary school pupils – and nothing else.

Fun Education

U-CandU Education adapts performing arts techniques to help teach subjects such as English, Maths and Science.

It uses specific interest areas and themes, for example, dance, to help demonstrate topics within a subject. For pupils struggling with simple concepts such as 'more and less' in maths, U-CandU projects are fun, easy and participative – so much so that the children involved don't even realise they are learning. They learn by doing and effectively teach themselves!

Developed and piloted by Culture and Arts with funding from Creative Partnerships, U-CandU is a tested and proven teaching method and almost any teaching subject can be given the U-CandU 'treatment', even subjects like History and Geography.

Culture & Arts have worked with over 50 schools, and these projects have already been successfully piloted across three primary schools and two secondary schools in London. A teacher from Three Bridges Primary School relays her experiences of U-CandU Dance Maths.

'The whole project has built the confidence of some children who are not usually 'top of the class'. They took to dance easily, and enjoyed their success in front of their peers and the school. Splitting the children and using odd and even numbers in the choreography gave them a practical experience of these numbers. It coincided with these numbers being taught in maths sessions, and reinforced their understanding'.

'Other children who were less aware of their movements have become more disciplined and confident in their ability to create a dance movement in front of an audience. The whole class have grown in their ability to multitask and work together. Their awareness of their surroundings has grown, and they work together better'.

The U-CandU Education programme is now available to all schools and institutions looking for a new way to motivate children and young people. For further information or to book an introductory meeting, you can visit www.cultureandarts.co.uk or call the Culture and Arts office on 0845 539 0014.

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Notes to Editor:

For high-resolution photos/logo or to arrange an interview with Tomorr Kokona, Artistic Director of Culture and Arts, please contact Sejal Sedani on 0845 539 0014, email: marketing@cultureandarts.co.uk

About Culture and Arts

Culture and Arts is a leading non-profit organisation, dedicated to enabling the young and disadvantaged across Britain to use active arts participation to enable them discover new talents, improve their self-esteem and assist them with their social integration.