

dot-art Schools: An Interactive Online Art Competition

dot-art Schools is an interactive, online, inter-school, art competition, taking part on an annual basis and culminating in an exhibition in Liverpool city centre. Open to primary (year 6) and secondary (year 9) schools in the Liverpool City Region. It is designed to nurture talent, raise ambition, and take art out of the classroom and into the real world. With the current threats to creative subjects on the national curriculum, dot-art Schools offers a way of keeping young people engaged with the arts, allows them to see a creative career path, and encourages them to attend exhibitions and engage with culture, outside of school.

HOW IT WORKS

During the **Autumn and Spring terms**, each school creates and selects **25 pieces** of wall-based student work (one piece per student) which they feel best represent the talents of their students. These art works are submitted to their dot-art Schools page by **February Half Term**, then put on display to the world via the dot-art Schools website. (schools.dot-art.com)

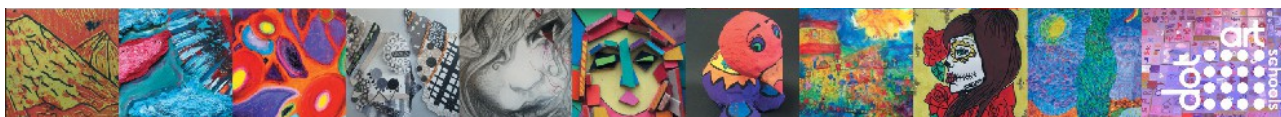
A panel of art experts will select the top 3 artworks from each school. Students from all the schools in the programme, as well as the general public, will then be able to **vote** for their favourite piece of art from the judge's shortlist. During the **Summer term**, an **exhibition** will be held at a city centre art gallery, showcasing the artwork with the most votes from each participating school.

PRIZES

The overall winner of the **Year 9** entries will win a **scholarship to dot-art**, giving them a year's membership to dot-art's network, allowing them to showcase and sell their work alongside professional artists. (See: <http://services.dot-art.com>) The Primary winner, and two runners up from both years, will win a selection of other prizes. All short listed artists will be awarded with **certificates** and will be invited to a **prize giving ceremony**.

This annual programme will encourage healthy competition between students and schools, as well as driving traffic to the site and therefore increasing the audience for the students' work and the profile of the school. This provides a fantastic way of celebrating the art work created and the school's commitment to arts education, and demonstrates the quality of art produced to parents, families, local authorities and the wider community.





2014-15 COMPETITION

During the second year of the programme, 46 schools across the city region took part, the exhibition was then held at the prestigious Walker Art Gallery, where the Lord Mayor of Liverpool presented the prizes and certificates.

We are now recruiting schools for the 2014-15 competition.

Key Facts 2013-14:

- 46 schools participated.
- 1000 student art works displayed online.
- 1900 votes cast
- 10,000 unique visitors to the website
- 46 student art works were showcased in the Walker Art Gallery
- 92 runners up artwork shown on screen in Gallery
- 2775 visitors to the exhibition.
- 414 people attended opening ceremony

Feedback from schools:

Most schools agreed that the programme raised the profile of the school and in particular the art department. Teachers agreed that it raised confidence in students own ability and there was an increased interest in continuing to study art. Most teachers also used their involvement in the programme to apply for Artsmark status (ask for details)

"The work on the website looks amazing. We are so happy with the quality of all of the schools submissions. You have done a great job!"

"I have just looked at our page and I am very impressed with the whole project"

"What a fantastic event!"

"It has been a long time since we have had something of this calibre in the city to promote and celebrate the work of our young artists"

Feedback from exhibition visitors:

"What a fantastic level of skill from such talented young people"

"What talented youth we have in Liverpool, so impressed with all the artwork presented"

"A lovely exhibition with some excellent work on display, hope it encourages many of the exhibitors to become artists of the future"

"I didn't realise the work was all by people under 15! Rather inspiring"

Key Dates 2014-15:

- 1st September 2014 – 2014-15 programme begins
- 19th December 2014 – Deadline for schools to sign up
- 13th February 2015 – Deadline for schools to submit work for competition
- March – April 2015 (dates TBC) – Online voting period
- May – June 2015 (dates TBC) – Exhibition of winning works

Further details:

schools.dot-art.com // twitter.com/dotartschools // facebook.com/dotartSchools

Fee: £150 per year group.

Contact: Carolyn Murray, Project Manager, dot-art Schools: schools@dot-art.com / 0845 017 6660

