

# GCSE unit of coursework looking at being a young person in Liverpool in 2008, through the medium of textiles.

Students aged 14/15 studied the work of Black American textile artist Aminah Robinson whose roots were in slavery and whose textiles were traditionally founded in the feminine craft of quilt-making. Students could see how she emulated the way women used to gather together to make a wedding quilt, or a quilt for a baby by producing large-scale pieces that struck at the heart of her community and her own life.



Students were shown images of Robinson's work and produced pages of research from school resources and the Internet. They used a wide range of media and techniques to extend their skill base.

A departmental trip was organised to the Slavery Museum in Liverpool's Albert Dock so that students could understand more about the slave trade, and in particular how Liverpool's major buildings were funded through slavery. They recognised street names near where they lived that could be traced back to wealthy families who dealt in slaves. Our students are very gregarious (!) and several of our Black students got chatting to other members of the public in the museum about what they thought. One student met a neighbour who could trace her family back to some of the first slaves brought to Liverpool all those years ago. Outside the museum, they made observational drawings in their sketchbooks using a variety of media.

Back in school, local artist Lynn France was invited in to work with students over two days, showing them new and interesting textile techniques. They worked on their own individual textile pieces that depicted their lives in Liverpool and some aspects of Liverpool's history. The pieces were then stitched together to form a wall hanging that can be seen outside the art rooms in school.

## Citizenship in Art:

- Exploring ideas, feelings and issues that have relevance and meaning both for individuals and for society.
- Making a personal response.
- Developing an understanding of how works of art, craft and design reflect personal, social and political and cultural values and beliefs
- Developing self esteem and a sense of achievement through art, craft and design work.

