

An interview with David Mewes, Headmaster, Holbury County Junior School, Southampton.

This followed a cre8.ed team visit on 29-31 March 2004

How did your school's involvement with cre8.ed come about?

I first came across cre8.ed in a JC2000 flier four years ago. For the past three years one cre8.ed artist has been coming into our school one day a year, but this year we increased to three artists in the school for three consecutive days.

Why did you invite them in?

I had been looking for something different for the school; something touching on issues the children face in their day to day lives, something focusing on the RE and literacy curricula, and something which could cross ages throughout our school. cre8.ed was offering to us all of the above.

And why do you keep inviting them back?

Primarily because of the quality of work presented for everyone involved. With cre8.ed artists, learning is fun but unique and of top quality. Children are invited to explore in a relaxed and creative environment. Teachers are aware of the children's development in literature, behaviour, speaking, group work, creativity, morality... to name but a few.

The professional development of our staff has also been another draw to the work of cre8.ed. The workshops have been of the very highest quality, so inspiring our teachers to strive to reach new heights and develop new teaching methods.

Can you give us an idea of what went on during your most recent visit from cre8.ed?

This year we were holding a few days of environment awareness and the cre8.ed workshops were a part of that. Alongside various in-house craft activities, we held three days of cre8.ed dance, drama and music workshops for groups of 30 covering Years 4 to 7. The dance, drama and music workshops were based around the theme of the environment, linked topically to the Easter story.

Can I presume you would recommend cre8.ed to others?

Oh, definitely! I'd encourage any school to experience the privilege of holding a cre8.ed workshop in their school. Many many thanks to the team for all they've brought to our school – to children, teachers and Headmaster alike!

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