

## *Marsh Mail*

Creativity is usually associated with artistic talent. There are a number of children (and many adults) that have a limiting and fixed mind-set in regards to their own creative abilities. 'I can't draw' is a defeatist statement that art teachers are familiar with and spend their life's work attempting to overcome, in the same way that English and maths teachers do with 'I can't spell' or 'I can't do maths'.

The outstanding outcomes from this year's GCSE art cohort are testament to the fantastic standard of arts education at Linton Village College. It will be fabulous to see the students' art work showcased in the exhibition that will take place later this term. Some highlights can be viewed on the @LintonArts twitter account.

Creativity in other parts of the curriculum have also been celebrated at LVC recently. Our team of students won first prize in the inaugural Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service competition as part of the STEM Learning UK schools challenge.

LVC students have also achieved trophy success in the Cambridge Rotary Technology Tournament and a number of our Year 11 students have sat exams for the prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. Younger students have participated in the junior maths challenge and a STEM Launchpad day at the Wellcome Genome Campus.

In 2015 a sample of LVC students were selected to take part in PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) tests which are conducted every three years with 15 year olds across the world to assess their science, mathematics, reading and problem-solving abilities. While England ranked between 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the international tables, our students performed significantly higher than all OECD countries.

LVC has retained a strong commitment to a broad, balanced and enriching curriculum, despite governmental pressures to prioritise EBacc subjects (English, maths, science, languages, geography and history). Meanwhile, there are growing concerns that schools with narrower subject options stifle students' creativity.

PISA is currently drawing up new questions to measure the quality of creativity among students. Championing students' creative potential puts our students in good stead not only for exams but for learning, future employment and life.

*Helena Marsh*