

## planet art testimonials

We were lucky enough to be chosen to work with Planet Art on the design of a piece of public art that would be erected in the local market. The project was presented to a group of Year 9 Design Technology students. This was a new direction for me, but right from the first meeting Julie and Ron I felt that this would develop into a great experience. When introducing the project to the students Ron and Julie quickly developed a good rapport with the students. They had a very relaxed approach but also conducted themselves in a professional manner. They provided lots of information for the group including books, maps and photographs of previous projects they had undertaken. When the design work started, the students were given lots of responsibility from the outset. This served to enthuse and excite the students and gave a real sense of ownership. Pupils worked individually and in groups and were shown lots of techniques to present and model ideas. There was also lots of support from Sandwell Council with several representatives visiting school to see how well the work was progressing. Ron and Julie were really impressive when the practical modelling of ideas began. Again, lots of materials and new techniques were introduced which also widened the pupils range of experiences. They both ensured that every pupil was supported during the making. The atmosphere during these sessions was always one of hard work, enjoyment and a clear feeling that the pupils were really responding to the way they were treated and the demands placed upon them.

Planet Art, with the help of a local library, also mounted an exhibition of the work. This was attended by local councillors, parents and market stall holders.

Ron and Julie then had the task of taking away the models and deciding what form the final piece would take.

When this decision was made Ron and Julie could begin the manufacturing process. Once the sculpture had been installed on site the official opening was planned. Local dignitaries were in attendance as were the press. This was a fitting end to the project as the students could see the fruits of their labours. The opportunity to be involved in a real life design project, the results of which they would be able to point out to family and friends for years to come, was not wasted on the pupils involved.

A thoroughly enjoyable project with thoroughly nice people. A sentiment echoed by all of the pupils involved.

If you get the chance, sieze it with both hands, you will not be disapointed.

Glenn A Bates, Head of Technology, Alexandra High School and Sixth Form Centre