

Students write lines in the name of art

by Helen Devonshire

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A VISITING artist has presented Elizabeth College students with signed limited edition photographs after they volunteered to take part in his project.

German artist Philipp Valenta has been in the island for about six weeks, as part of the school's artist-in-residence scheme.

The initiative has seen him run workshops with some of the students.

However, nine boys from Years 7, 8 and 9 volunteered for and will feature in a 45-minute video by Mr Valenta.

The exhibition, which is a video performance and installation, is called Writing Lines.

It is based on the financial system of the world and writing lines, a form of punishment which is rarely used any more, Mr Valenta said.

'So many banks recently and in the past, tend to violate code of conducts, and they have to pay penalties but to no obvious effect,' Mr Valenta said.

'There is no change in business. I thought because writing lines was a form of detention, what was written sinks in.'

The boys were filmed writing lines, which were extracts from codes of conduct.

Mr Valenta thought it would pose a strong image, with an innocent group of young boys writing these lines from codes of conduct, from nine different banks around the world, which had previously broken their



Back row, left to right: Artist Philipp Valenta, head of art Adam Stephens and principal George Hartley with the Elizabeth College students who took part in Valenta's artwork 'Writing Lines'. (11214968)

own code of conduct in various different ways.

'This document has to be written several times since its rules and regulations have been violated - so it needs writing to sink in again.'

For his artwork, Mr Valenta has made videos before, but this

was the first with participants, he said.

His work is now more related to money and the stock markets.

Two of the students that were involved, 14-year-old Seth Hollingsworth, who is in Year 9, and Year 7 pupil Timothy Neal, 11,

said it was good to take part.

Each of the boys' pieces of writing will also be part of the exhibition, which will be shown at the Gate House Gallery, at the college, in March next year.

Mr Valenta also has plans to show it in various galleries across Europe.