

# Pupils learn the art of collagraph printing

PUPILS from four primary schools have been learning new printing techniques through an art programme at the Gate House Gallery.

Twelve Year 6 pupils from Amherst, Beechwood, Notre Dame du Rosaire and Vauvert were chosen to take part in a printmaking project which took place over four weekends in March.

The project forms part of the gallery's visiting artist programme, made possible through sponsorship from Ravenscroft.

The gallery, located at the entrance to Elizabeth College, was established to provide opportunities for students to show their work, bring artists and designers to the island to work with local school children through an artists in residence programme and to build links with the wider arts community.

Elizabeth College's head of creative arts, Adam Stephens, was managing the project, alongside art technician Louise Stephens, and Caroline Cummins, who owns a design business in Guernsey.

'The pupils are learning all about collagraph printing, which is a form of printmaking that begins with creating a textured block.

**Amherst Primary School pupils Keeah Battle, 11, left, and Nell Verriour, 10, at the Elizabeth College art block on Saturday. Year 6 pupils from four primary schools have been learning new printing techniques through an art programme at the Gate House Gallery, which is at the college.**



'They are experimenting with textures and surfaces and exploring a range of imagery before developing ideas into a series of printing blocks. The final part of the project involves printing the blocks onto paper using a heavy

printing press.'

Mr Stephens said the four Town schools were chosen because they were close to the site.

On Saturday the students were based in the Elizabeth College art block. Their work included images

of butterflies, moths and owls.

Amherst Primary School students Keeah Battle, 11, and Nell Verriour, 10, both enjoyed the art sessions.

Nell said her favourite part was when they made things.

Keeah said she liked looking at the different materials and seeing how much the image showed up on each.

They added that they had learned lots of new skills and that art was one of their favourite subjects.

'It is very interesting, you can do what you want and your own style of work,' Nell said.

Mr Stephens said it was extremely grateful to Ravenscroft for its invaluable support and the pupils could experiment with new processes which they would not get the opportunity to do at primary school.

Ravenscroft chief executive officer, Channel Islands, Charlie Roger said the gallery did an excellent job inspiring and educating the island's young people and it was very pleased to contribute.

A selection of the work produced during the project will be exhibited in a mixed show of students' work at the gallery in June.

Each school will also be presented with a framed picture created during the project.

In 2014, the gallery's efforts were given a financial boost as Ravenscroft signed a sponsorship deal committing £5,000 a year for a three-year period.