

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Final works of art in place for new Everest Community College, Basingstoke**

**The striking final art work commissioned by The Making for the new Everest Community College in Popley, Basingstoke will be assembled and craned into position on Thursday 13 March 2008. The Making, the craft and design education charity for the South East, has worked with Hampshire County Council Architects over the last 18 months to organise the creation of six stunning artworks for the school.**

The Making chose artists from all over England and Wales, to create an exciting and stimulating environment for pupils, teachers and the community in this inspiring new building.

The final eye-catching artwork – 3.5 metres high, will be installed on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in the main public square in front of the College. It was created by up and coming young British sculptor **Joseph Hillier** from Newcastle. Joseph explored his ideas for the sculpture through workshops with pupils at the school last summer. Entitled '*Beyond Number*' it takes the form of a human figure made from hundreds of round steel particles, within a molecule form representing an isotope of carbon C60. The figure is inspired by a drawing by Leonardo Da Vinci and is related to the Fibonacci series.

Other completed commissions are by local Basingstoke artist **Linda Hasking**, together with **Thomas Joynes and Adam Paddon** (based in Essex and known collectively as Joypad), **Malcolm Martin and Gaynor Dowling** from Stroud in Gloucestershire, **Benjamin Storch** who lives and works in mid-Wales, and Portsmouth based artist **Peter Codling**.

The College moved to its new site in North Popley and opened in November 2007. It is one of few new school builds in the country to have been funded locally through the proceeds from the sale of the existing sites and by contributions from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and others, and not by central Government or by Public/Private Finance Initiative. Within the College, Hampshire County Council Architects have created four 'curriculum gardens', relating to specific subjects that will be taught at the College; science and technology, mathematics, communications and humanities. The gardens are linked by a design that draws on the Fibonacci sequence, a number series recurring constantly in nature, which describes everything from spiral shells to growth patterns in plants and trees.

The Making has worked in partnership with Hampshire Architects to create these original and inspiring pieces of art, creating a stimulating environment for everyone who attends the College. The artworks are sited in the main public square outside the front of the College, inside the College's main foyer and in the curriculum gardens. They explore the magic of the Fibonacci sequence and celebrate the links between different curriculum subjects.

A unique aspect of this project is the way in which pupils, staff, parents and artists have been involved at an early stage through consultation exercises, projects and 'hands-on' workshops, all managed by The Making. Further workshops during Architecture Week 2007 provided the commissioned artists with the opportunity to gather new ideas for the final designs and allowed children to learn new skills such as woodcarving, metalwork, model making and drawing.

Simon Taylor, Education Manager for The Making says, "We are delighted with the high standard and original qualities within the art works produced. This has been a prestigious project where we strongly believed in serving the community through exciting commissions and involve everyone in decisions and the production of art."

The commissions have been jointly funded by Arts Council England and Hampshire County Council with support from Basingstoke & Deane for the accompanying education programme.

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***For further information please contact Simon Taylor on 01256 845569 or RM Communications on 02380 732981.***

**Note to Editors:**

**The artwork will be installed on 13 March. The artist, Joseph Hillier, will be in attendance and available for interview from 3pm. Staff and pupils will also be available from 3.15pm. Action shots can be obtained between 2 and 3pm.**

**Information about the artists and their artworks:**

The main public square will feature an iconic piece (3-4m high) by **Joseph Hillier** from Newcastle- *'Beyond Number'* a human figure formed from steel particles within a molecule form representing an isotope of carbon C60, inspired by a drawing by Leonardo Da Vinci and related to the Fibonacci series.

**Thomas Joynes and Adam Paddon** (based in Essex and known collectively as Joypad) were selected for the science and technology garden. Their design uses welded steel tubes to reflect astronomical patterns.

**Malcolm Martin and Gaynor Dowling** from Stroud in Gloucestershire has created a carved oak column for the communications garden. Lettering from famous books and poems (chosen by the school children) forms a natural spiral pattern around the wooden piece.

**Benjamin Storch** who lives and works in mid-Wales, has made a beautiful hand-finished steel sculpture inspired by a mathematical form- the Möbius strip. The curved and highly polished surfaces reflect the viewer and the surrounding environment.

For the Humanities Garden, Portsmouth based artist **Peter Codling** has produced original seating designs based on the profile of the human face, the proportions of which relate to the Fibonacci series.

An additional commission for a large mural was awarded to local Basingstoke artist and printmaker **Linda Hasking**. This innovative photo-montage piece has developed from The Making's education programme at the school and been taken forward with help from HCC Interior Designer Cameron Shields.

**About the Making**

The Making is the craft and design education charity for the South East. It aims to inspire and engage new audiences for contemporary craft, art and design through 'making' and 'doing'. . The Making is developing a vibrant, artist-led outreach programme throughout Hampshire and the south east to encourage people of all ages and abilities to participate in the visual arts. It has two separate but complementary strands: *The Theatre of Making* which targets families, young people and enthusiasts, and participatory community projects which help to nurture the creativity of disadvantaged young people .The Making also aims to provide the infrastructure for a crafts network in the South East through its database, networking meetings, talks, seminars and on-line resources.

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