

Andover College and Chapel Arts Studios • Art Classes Group •
Artreach Studios • Arts University Plymouth • Banbury and Bicester
NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB College, Activate Learning • Birmingham City University
• Blackbird Leys, Activate Learning • Blackburn Museum
& Art Gallery • Bolton School of the Arts, University of Bolton •
Boston College • Bracknell and Wokingham College, Activate Learning
• Bradford College • Brunel University • Buckinghamshire New University
• Camberwell, Chelsea and Wimbledon Colleges of Art, University of
the Arts London • Cambridge School of Art, Anglia Ruskin University
• Cambridge School of Creative Industries, Anglia Ruskin University •
Capital City College Group • Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts
London • CFI Academy • City & Guilds of London Art School • City of Oxford
College, Activate Learning • Cockpit Studios • Coleg Sir Gâr • Coventry
University • Cranford Community College • CSES at Anglia Ruskin
University • East Sussex College • Escape Studios • Essex Book Festival
at ARU • Falmouth University • **2023–24** • Fashion Retail Academy
• Gateshead College • **Annual Review** • HH+ Keele University • HH+
Staffordshire University • Hub Sleaford • Istituto Marangoni • Kingston
University London • London College of Communication, University of the
Arts London • London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London
• London Metropolitan University • London School of Architecture
and RIBA • MAKE Southwest • Manchester Metropolitan University
• Manchester Museum • Merrist Wood College, Activate Learning •
Middlesex University • MIMA, Teesside University • Museum of Making
• National Army Museum • National Maritime Museum • Northbrook
College • Northumbria University • Nottingham Trent University •
Reading College, Activate Learning • Rochdale Hopwood Hall College
• Rotherham College • Roundhouse & The Place • Shademakers UK •
St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery • St Mary's University Twickenham •
Stamford College • Suffolk New College • The BRIT School • The Institute
of Arts, Hull College and Ferens Art Gallery • The Margate School • The
Northern School of Art • The Studio Morland • Time and Tide Museum
• UCL East • University of Central Lancashire • University of Derby •
University of Lincoln • University of Northampton • University of Salford
• University of Sussex • University of West London • Winchester School
of Art, University of Southampton • York College • York St John University

The National Saturday Club gives 13–16-year-olds nationwide a unique opportunity to study subjects they love for free, on a Saturday at their local university, college or cultural institution.

Club members attend weekly Saturday classes led by expert tutors in their local community, and take part in national events throughout the year including visits to leading cultural institutions; Masterclasses with industry; a Summer Show exhibition of all Club members' work; and a Graduation Ceremony. A remarkable national network of further education, higher education, the cultural sector, and industry works together in partnership to deliver these enriching extracurricular activities.

With a particular focus on engaging young people from under-represented backgrounds, the National Saturday Club's established model has proven impact. The programme offers a transformational opportunity to build versatile and creative skills, develop confidence and discover pathways to further study and future careers.

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**“My voice has been heard.
My ideas have been seen
and known. I feel wonderful
and astonished.”**

Club member, University of West London, Society&Change

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Abigail and Chloe Baldwin, co-founders of design studio Buttercrumble

We were delighted earlier this year when we were asked to write the foreword for a new book by Abigail and Chloe Baldwin, *The Brand Power Manifesto* published by BIS Publishers. They were members of the very first National Saturday Club in 2009 and have become successful entrepreneurs with their business Buttercrumble, with offices in Leeds and London.

***Sorrell Foundation Programmes leading to the creation of the National Saturday Club:**

**Joined Up Design For Schools
2000–2006**

62 schools
Exhibition at the V&A Museum
National Touring Exhibition at 8 locations
House of Commons Exhibition

**I Learn, Personalised Learning
2004–2005**

28 schools

**Young Design Programme
2005–2010**

8 universities
41 schools

Joined Up Design for Academies

2005–2009
20 schools

**Pupil's Briefs for Building Schools for the Future
2007–2010**

What's Next for Schools Exhibition and
Young Design Centre at Somerset House
279 schools, 38 Local Authorities

**Design Out Crime
2007–2010**

6 schools, 150 pupils
Displays and Presentations to Local Authorities
and the Home Office

**Joined Up Design for Myplace Youth Centres
2009–2010**

15 projects, 160 young people
Display and presentation at Westminster Hall

**National Saturday Club
created 2009**

**Saturday Club Trust
created 2015**

Founders' note

Sir John Sorrell CBE

Frances, Lady Sorrell CBE

Creativity is an integral part of Britain's identity as an innovative nation. It is embedded in our most sought-after universities, best businesses and throughout our lives. Our creative industries are a success story economically and socially, making our reputation for edgy brilliance and business success.

The country needs more and more vibrant young entrepreneurs to bring creativity, fresh ideas and imagination to help drive growth and improve lives, as well as build their own successful careers.

The National Saturday Club movement is designed to help achieve this by giving young people an opportunity to discover their talents, and develop their learning journeys, at a key time in their lives.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Sorrell Foundation, which we created with the aim of inspiring creativity in young people. We had a long-term ambition for a new version of the Saturday morning classes we had both attended when we were 14 years old, but needed to understand much more about the education system.

In 2000, we created a series of hands-on programmes* which always put young people at the centre and aimed to improve their life skills, confidence and self-belief. They learned how to work in a team, discovered their own strengths and how to solve problems. Over the next ten years we worked with thousands of young people across the UK in schools, colleges, universities and with some outside the formal system. Their ages ranged from 4 to 18 years old. Our work took us all over the UK and into some wonderful collaborations including exhibitions at Somerset House, the V&A and the House of Commons as well as a national touring show. Some of the young people in our programmes spoke at conferences and events about their involvement, including a presentation at Downing Street. The programmes provided a large body of research and we used this knowledge to create the National Saturday Club.

We prototyped the Club in 2009 with four colleges. It worked extremely well and gave us the confidence to expand the number of Clubs in 2010. It was also clear that the model would work for other subjects, and we soon introduced Science&Engineering, Fashion&Business and Writing&Talking alongside Art&Design.

The Club was growing and expanding its offer; it had a life of its own and a lot of potential. We set out our challenge to "Just imagine if every 13–16-year-old in the country had the opportunity to attend free Saturday classes they love at their local university or college". We decided that the National Saturday Club should develop as a separate charity dedicated to its core purpose, and the Saturday Club Trust was formed in 2015.

Today, the Club has deep roots and as it moves forward with energy and commitment from its brilliant team, led by Lucy, Nigel and its Trustees, we are grateful to all its partners, funders, sponsors, supporters, student ambassadors, advisors, contributors, tutors, Masterclass givers and especially the Club members who make it all worthwhile and continue to inspire us.

Frances & John.



Foreword

Sir Nigel Carrington
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Since 2009, when the National Saturday Club was established by Sir John and Lady Sorrell, we have grown with the generous support of Arts Council England, DCMS, philanthropists, trusts, foundations and our wonderful national partners. Together, they have enabled us to expand our early national network of Art&Design Clubs into other areas of vocational experience which schools generally cannot offer.

The strength and distinctiveness of our national network of Saturday Clubs lies not only in its focus on its collaborations with the universities, colleges and cultural institutions which provide an empowering bridge to further and higher education, but in its very close relationships with industry leaders and local ecosystems of support. Membership of our Clubs, which run throughout the academic year, is completely free to the young people who participate in them. Club membership allows 13–16-year-olds to channel their creativity into previously unexplored areas, opens them to new aspirations, unlocks their individual strengths and often provides them with new and desperately needed opportunities for social mobility.

The last year has seen some exciting developments in our expanding network of Clubs. The new partnerships announced last year with the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) and the Clore Duffield Foundation, together with substantially increased funding from the British Film Institute and Arts Council England, have enabled us to increase the number of Clubs and develop closer links with communities across the country.

Our Chief Executive, Lucy Kennedy, leads an exceptionally dedicated team which has now grown to 24 people, including our new Development Director, Hannah Travers, whose appointment was supported by a generous grant. Hannah's appointment will allow us to develop the broader partner and supporter base which will be so essential to our ability to extend our network of Clubs across the country.

In everything our Board of Trustees and staff team do, we are supported magnificently by many others who give generously of their time and expertise, including members of our Advisory Board, our Tutors' Advisory Group and our Youth Board. Together they ensure that, in all we do, we are focused on the needs and aspirations of the young people who are our collective future. I would like to thank them all for being an essential part of our world.





Host institutions

This year, **106 Saturday Clubs** were hosted by a committed national network of universities, colleges and cultural institutions. By running the programme, these institutions are providing invaluable extracurricular opportunities for young people in their local communities

Andover College and Chapel Arts Studios
 Art Classes Group
 Artreach Studios
 Arts University Plymouth
 Banbury and Bicester College, Activate Learning
 Birmingham City University
 Blackbird Leys, Activate Learning
 Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery
 Bolton School of the Arts, University of Bolton
 Boston College
 Bracknell and Wokingham College, Activate Learning
 Bradford College
 Brunel University
 Buckinghamshire New University
 Camberwell, Chelsea and Wimbledon Colleges of Art, University of the Arts London
 Cambridge School of Art, Anglia Ruskin University
 Cambridge School of Creative Industries, Anglia Ruskin University
 Capital City College Group
 Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London
 CFI Academy
 City & Guilds of London Art School
 City of Oxford College, Activate Learning
 Cockpit Studios
 Coleg Sir Gâr
 Coventry University

Cranford Community College
 CSES at Anglia Ruskin University
 East Sussex College
 Escape Studios
 Essex Book Festival at ARU
 Falmouth University
 Fashion Retail Academy
 Gateshead College
 HH+ Keele University
 HH+ Staffordshire University
 Hub Sleaford
 Istituto Marangoni
 Kingston University London
 London College of Communication, University of the Arts London
 London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London
 London Metropolitan University
 London School of Architecture and RIBA
 MAKE Southwest
 Manchester Metropolitan University
 Manchester Museum
 Merrist Wood College, Activate Learning
 Middlesex University
 MIMA, Teesside University
 Museum of Making
 National Army Museum
 National Maritime Museum
 Northbrook College
 Northumbria University
 Nottingham Trent University
 Reading College, Activate Learning

Rochdale Hopwood Hall College
 Rotherham College
 Roundhouse & The Place
 Shademakers UK
 St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery
 St Mary's University Twickenham
 Stamford College
 Suffolk New College
 The BRIT School
 The Institute of Arts, Hull College and Ferens Art Gallery
 The Margate School
 The Northern School of Art
 The Studio Morland
 Time and Tide Museum
 UCL East
 University of Central Lancashire
 University of Derby
 University of Lincoln
 University of Northampton
 University of Salford
 University of Sussex
 University of West London
 Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton
 York College
 York St John University

Executive summary

Lucy Kennedy, Chief Executive

Young people spend a significant portion of their waking hours outside the traditional classroom. For some, this can be as much as 91% of their time.¹ This highlights the critical need to ensure that all young people, regardless of their background, have equitable access to non-formal and extracurricular opportunities

“We want every university, further education college and cultural institution running a Saturday Club, ensuring that every young person can access these transformative opportunities, free of charge, in every community”

Lucy Kennedy, Chief Executive

Whether educational, productive, creative or simply for enjoyment, these experiences outside of school are essential. The National Saturday Club steps into this gap, offering a free education programme, on a Saturday, that provides 13–16-year-olds with invaluable learning opportunities in subjects they love. These positive experiences are not merely supplementary; they are essential in providing a safe space outside of school that develops vital social, emotional and academic skills, and makes pathways to further study and future careers more visible.

During the 2023–24 academic year, our national network of partners delivered 106 Saturday Clubs, covering a wide range of subjects within the creative industries and beyond. Their dedication to providing equitable access for young people is evident. Additionally, National Saturday Club members participated in 69 industry-led Masterclasses, exploring diverse topics – from sustainable transport solutions with Transport for Greater Manchester to envisioning the future with the Royal Society of the Arts (RSA). We also convened the expertise of 250 tutors and educators across our network to share best practices and discuss important issues, such as building anti-racist, inclusive curriculums and fostering local community partnerships. Meanwhile, our Youth Board has tackled subjects ranging from strategies to engage young people through communications to the development of an alumni network and contributing to our Theory of Change framework.

With 76% of Club members coming from underserved communities and under-represented backgrounds, and our own research revealing that 80% of these young people are not taking part in any other arts or cultural activities, the important role the National Saturday Club plays and the significant gap it fills in the ecology of educational and learning opportunities available for young people is clear. The National Saturday Club is not solely about skills acquisition, though that is a significant component. The programme’s holistic approach nurtures social and emotional development alongside academic growth. The Club environment fosters confidence, friendship and a sense of community, with a co-created curriculum that respects the individuality and autonomy of each participant.

1. Children’s University, *Percentage of Time Outside the Classroom*



National Saturday Club team at the Summer Show Private View

At this year's Summer Show, hosted so generously by Somerset House, we welcomed several National Saturday Club alumni to the stage to share their personal journeys. A common theme was the extraordinary impact the National Saturday Club has had on their lives. One alumna, the first in her family to attend university, discovered textiles through the Art&Design Saturday Club. Another, currently pursuing a master's in Architecture, had not visited a museum until joining the Club. Her exposure to cultural spaces and a range of careers at her Saturday Club helped her navigate an architectural careers path. Another alumnus, who once struggled with social anxiety and had stopped attending secondary school when he joined the Saturday Club, confidently shared how he has founded his own web design business, blending his interest in tech with a passion for the arts, thanks to the Club's support. These powerful stories only serve to strengthen our resolve to reach even more young people.

Without the many supporters, advocates and partners, and without significant hard work, none of this would be possible. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the network of HE, FE and cultural institutions that invest in and run the Clubs; the dedicated tutors; and the committed National Saturday Club team. We are also very fortunate to have the valued input of our Youth Board and Tutors' Advisory Group; our wonderfully experienced and committed Board of Trustees, with a brilliant Chair in Nigel Carrington; and, of course, our founders, John and Frances Sorrell, without whose foresight and vision the National Saturday Club would not exist. Thank you all for your wisdom, advice, and ongoing guidance.

For the forthcoming academic year 2024–25, bolstered by the generous support of valued funders including Arts Council England, DCMS, DfE, the British Film Institute, the British Fashion Council, QEST, the Clore Duffield Foundation and others, we are on track to reach 140 Saturday Clubs. Our vision is ambitious yet clear; the programme is eminently scalable across the UK. We want every university, further education college and cultural institution to run a Saturday Club, ensuring that every young person can access these transformative opportunities, free of charge, in every community. We welcome the new government's emphasis on young people's development and the importance of equitable access to culture and creativity. We are encouraged by this and look forward to potential collaborations that will allow us to extend our reach even further.

For over 15 years, the National Saturday Club has profoundly impacted the lives of its participants. This Annual Review not only recounts the achievements of the past year but also calls upon government and policymakers to recognise and support the essential work we are doing. Together, we can continue to bridge the gap in educational equity, fostering a brighter, more inclusive future for all young people.



Club subjects

Club subjects

Art&Design
Craft&Making
Fashion&Business
Film&Screen
Performance&Theatre
Science&Engineering
Society&Change
Writing&Talking

Across all Club subjects, the programme takes a creative pedagogical approach that introduces young people to the breadth of their chosen subject, builds vital skills, and makes visible the vast array of further study and future career pathways that are open to them

“The Saturday Clubs play a crucial role in making the cultural and creative industries accessible to young people from all backgrounds. By fostering imagination and curiosity through art and design, these Clubs equip the next generation with essential skills like problem-solving and interdisciplinary thinking. These are vital abilities for tomorrow’s workforce, and the Clubs help young people develop them early, empowering them to imagine and address the challenges of the future and protect a vital pipeline of talent into a range of sectors.”

Caroline Norbury, Chief Executive Officer, Creative UK



Art&Design

Art&Design is the longest running Saturday Club programme and has been generously supported by Arts Council England (ACE) since its inception in 2009. Art&Design Saturday Clubs provide members with an array of transferable skills that are greatly sought after by employers in the UK’s thriving creative sector and beyond. Through the exploration of practices such as printmaking, architecture, sculpture and painting, Club members problem-solve, collaborate and experiment, preparing them for exciting future pathways. The combination of imaginative thinking and technical skills that is at the heart of every programme is the foundation for a diverse range of careers, spanning animation, architecture, photography, illustration, graphics, fine art and more. In 2023, in alignment with ACE’s Let’s Create strategy, the National Saturday Club was awarded a Nationally Significant Project Grant supporting further expansion of the wider National Saturday Club network.

“We’re excited to continue our partnership and to support the Craft&Making Clubs as they grow and develop. Building a diverse pipeline of talented professional makers is central to QEST’s work, now and in the future, so we are thrilled to see the Clubs inspiring young people across the UK to try new craft skills and discover pathways into creative careers.”

Deborah Pocock LVO, CEO,
Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust



Craft&Making

In 2023–24 the National Saturday Club and Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust continued their partnership to develop the Craft&Making Saturday Club, generously supported by Howdens Joinery. Craft&Making Saturday Clubs give young people the opportunity to explore craft-based activities, developing their creativity and handmaking skills. Through the programme, Club members discover how the mastery of these skills sustains our culture and has wide applications across sectors such as heritage, the built environment and the creative industries. They also gain an understanding of the importance of retaining traditional craft skills, and learn how new technologies are evolving these traditions, ensuring they remain relevant in the modern world. Four host institutions piloted the programme in 2022–23, growing to nine Clubs in 2023–24 and increasing to eleven by 2025.

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Generously supported by



"The British Fashion Council champions British fashion on the world stage through pioneering programmes which support the educational development and growth of young creatives. We are delighted to continue our work with the National Saturday Club through the BFC Foundation, allowing us to provide the next generation of creatives with the support needed to access further education and careers within the fashion industry, while giving young people confidence in their further education and career goals."

Caroline Rush, Chief Executive, British Fashion Council



Fashion&Business

The Fashion&Business programme has been generously supported by the British Fashion Council for the past nine years. Fashion&Business Saturday Clubs introduce young people to the latest industry thinking and the breadth of opportunities open to them in the dynamic fashion sector. In addition to considering themes such as self-expression and sustainability, Club members explore wide-ranging topics including trend-forecasting, embroidery, visual merchandising, pattern-cutting and styling. Throughout the programme, Club members develop practical skills and key transferable attributes, such as creative problem-solving and business acumen.

In partnership with

BRITISH
FASHION
COUNCIL
FOUNDATION

"We're proud to support Film&Screen Saturday Clubs through our National Lottery Young Creatives funding. It's vital there are equal opportunities around the country and outside of the standard school setting for young people, regardless of background or personal circumstances, to experience filmmaking, engage with industry specialists, learn about screen careers, and see that there is a place for them in our world-leading sector."

Sara Whybrew, Director of Skills and Workforce Development, BFI



Film&Screen

In 2023–24 the National Saturday Club and BFI continued their partnership supporting the further development of the Film&Screen Saturday Clubs. Film&Screen Saturday Clubs celebrate and introduce the breadth of film and screen skills, from production, editing and sound design to VFX, scripting and animation. At the Club, members gain practical and technical insights, embracing the art of filmmaking and its ability to entertain and inform our society and culture. In 2023, as part of its Young Creatives programme, the BFI awarded National Lottery good cause funding to establish a further 40 Film&Screen Saturday Clubs across the UK.

Supported by



“Drama and dance opportunities are often too limited in school and too expensive out of school, and yet the skills and experiences they provide are unique and invaluable in building confidence, collaboration and creativity and giving young people a platform and a voice. So, we are partnering with the National Saturday Club to bring high quality Performance&Theatre opportunities to young people for free.”

Kate Bellamy, Director, Clore Duffield Foundation



Performance&Theatre

In 2023–24, the National Saturday Club and the Clore Duffield Foundation worked in partnership to launch the Performance&Theatre Saturday Club. Through the programme, young people will have the chance to celebrate and explore the breadth of the sector across applied theatre, physical theatre, dance, vocal training, performance, and acting techniques, as well as production elements such as set and costume design. The Performance&Theatre programme will enhance cultural learning and support the development of future leaders within the arts sector. Links will be made to careers and study pathways, broadening young people’s awareness of professional opportunities across theatre, design and performance. Three host institutions piloted the programme in 2023–24, with seven Clubs planned for 2024–25, increasing to ten by 2026.

“We’re delighted to support the National Saturday Club which does vital work in inspiring the next generation to find out more about the subjects that they love. It’s no secret that we need more engineers, so access to interactive and engaging science and engineering learning is crucial for young people across the country – we need to be showing what careers in the sector can be like from a young age.”

David Lakin, Head of Education,
Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)



Science&Engineering

As we enter the fourth industrial revolution, it is vital to support a generation of creative and innovative scientists and engineers. Engaging with topics such as climate change, urban engineering and drone technology, the Science&Engineering Saturday Club introduces the latest industry thinking and technologies, encouraging members to develop practical and analytical skills. Through hands-on learning and real-life applications, Club members gain the confidence to explore the industries that quite literally shape the world around us.

“The skills of tomorrow will be those transferable capabilities – from creativity to communication, from resilience to citizenship – that can ride the rapids of technology. The National Saturday Club is just what is needed to nurture those next-generation capabilities.”

Andy Haldane, Chief Executive, RSA



Society&Change

The Society&Change Saturday Club provides a unique opportunity for young people to explore and discuss the issues that are shaping the world today and into the future. The Club introduces a range of jobs and careers that could determine our futures across foreign policy and diplomacy, journalistic reporting, global supply chains, and the work of international humanitarian and development charities. From climate change and conflict to new technologies and taking action, Club members are able to listen, share their opinions, and consider how they have a voice to influence some of the most important topics impacting our world today.

“Developing writing and talking skills through the National Saturday Club offers young people such a vital and exciting opportunity. The creative and cultural sectors thrive on those individuals who can express themselves, but so do all parts of the economy, and our society. The foregrounding of oracy by the new Government is a welcome recognition of how vital self-expression and critical thinking are going to be to this generation’s future, and the Saturday Club is a great place to hone these essential future skills.”

Stephen Page OBE, Chair, Faber and Faber



Writing&Talking

The Writing&Talking Saturday Club imparts valuable and versatile skills that build confidence and provide pathways into a vast range of careers, including journalism, creative writing, advertising, publishing, communications and marketing. Club members explore how to articulate their ideas, communicate vision and present new concepts. Generating new and exciting work, the Club is a forum for young people to develop their critical thinking, curiosity and communication skills. Every year a diverse cohort of Club members are building their confidence and finding their voice. We can’t wait to hear what they have to say.



**Wow. I imagine that it is a rare
that one weekend course has
to change the trajectory of so
However, in my son's case, I do
witnessed the very same."**

Parent

occurrence
the impact
someone's life.
think we have

Annual programme

Club members attend classes every Saturday, at their local university, college or cultural institution. The National Saturday Club brings everyone in the network together for shared national events – The Visit, Summer Show and Graduation Ceremonies – and organises a Masterclass for each Club, giving members a vital link to the professional world



Weekly classes

At the heart of the National Saturday Club are the weekly classes held at local universities, colleges and cultural institutions. Here, for up to 30 weeks a year, young people have the chance to work with experienced and inspiring tutors, exploring their curiosity for the subject, trying out new techniques and materials, and using specialist equipment that is not always available to them in schools. Club tutors put together inspirational programmes of activity that introduce members to a rich array of disciplines. Although the choice of activities and themes varies, all Clubs share the desire to create a relaxed atmosphere in which members are encouraged to explore their curiosity for a subject without the pressure of exams.

93% found the classes engaging

94% found the atmosphere at the Club welcoming and inclusive

83% felt that their skills have improved

“The Visit boosts confidence and is a lovely thing to celebrate their taking part in the National Saturday Club. The group felt valued as artists. I feel The Visit also presents a moment to meet other young people from across the UK for an exchange of experiences and ideas. Finally, getting to visit a large arts venue, for free, in a bespoke guided way, is an exciting opportunity – especially in the context of the cost-of-living crisis, as well as supporting young people to explore venues outside their local area, in a safe and familiar group.”

Amy van Zyl, Club tutor, National Maritime Museum

“It was during the Masterclass when I realised just how achievable and realistic a career in this sector is. It has always been a big dream of mine since I was a kid. Hearing the Masterclass giver talk about it made me feel like it could really happen.”

Club member



National events: The Visit

The Visit brings the national network together at the beginning of the year and provides an opportunity for Club members to access and engage with inspiring cultural places and spaces. World-leading museums, galleries and theatres open their doors to provide behind-the-scenes tours, special experiences and bespoke workshops. On the day, Club members also hear from keynote speakers and see their self-portraits exhibited alongside those of their peers from across the network. In autumn 2024, the National Saturday Club will deliver a Visit opportunity in both Manchester and London.

- 93%** valued the cultural visit
- 89%** agreed that the self-portrait exhibition celebrates young people's individuality
- 81%** found the guest speakers inspiring and motivating

Masterclasses

Each Club takes part in a Masterclass delivered by leading industry professionals, giving Club members and tutors rare access to some of the UK's most inspiring minds. Delivered by a network of over 175 generous individuals and organisations, each Masterclass draws on the Masterclass giver's expertise and showcases how skills developed at a Saturday Club can be applied in the real world. For many young people, their Masterclass is the moment they realise that their interests have the potential to develop into rewarding careers.

- 96%** enjoyed the Masterclass and found meeting industry professionals inspiring
- 92%** learned something new during the Masterclass
- 82%** gained a better understanding of job roles and career possibilities

"The Graduation Ceremony and exhibition were wonderful! To see so many young people taking part, being who they are and expressing themselves was amazing. My daughter didn't know what to expect from the day, and was nervous to go, but the experience, efforts by her group, and the National Saturday Club, blew her away. She felt valued, celebrated and proud."

Parent

"I was so excited to see my artwork in a real gallery. It was an amazing experience and I learned so much this year."

Club member, University of Derby



Graduation Ceremonies

Graduation Ceremonies provide an important moment for Club members to take pride in their achievements throughout the programme and to look ahead to future possibilities. At the event, tutors and inspiring guest speakers address the young people and each Club member receives a Certificate of Achievement, in front of their family, friends, peers and tutors. In 2024, the ceremonies were hosted by the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

Summer Show

The culmination of the Saturday Club year is a public exhibition of Club members' work at London's prestigious Somerset House. It is a joyous celebration of the year's achievements. Each Club presents a collaborative project to showcase their Club members' work, and these displays are curated for the exhibition by Dallas-Pierce-Quintero with a focus on sustainable design. The Summer Show also includes events such as Private Views for Club members and a Private View for network guests, industry, the cultural sector, government and policy-makers. As a valued partner of the National Saturday Club, Somerset House has generously hosted the Summer Show for 15 years.

| **2,820** Graduation Ceremony attendees

| **3,023** visited the Summer Show at Somerset House





Fashion&Business Saturday Club work on display at the Summer Show

“The Summer Show was a rewarding and excellent celebration of the programme and the achievements of our young people. The whole event raises the aspirations of young people.”

Ian Wilkins, Club tutor and coordinator, MAKE Southwest



Alumni case study

Urvi Nandha

Nottingham Trent University
Art&Design Saturday Club
2015–16



At the time when I joined the Saturday Club at NTU, I had an inkling that architecture was for me but I wasn't quite sure. I'm now pursuing my Master of Architecture at the Manchester School of Architecture and have been on a crazy journey since the Club, working in London, Prague and Manchester, and meeting artists across the nation and Europe.

As an individual, I am driven to connect with people from different cultures and disciplines so that I can continue my learning journey as much as possible. Currently, I'm deeply interested in radical pedagogy and the evolving nature of architecture and the arts as a profession and practice.

I couldn't have been here without the Saturday Club. It was because I had these pockets of time on a Saturday, I got to grow to see that there's a potential for me to do something here. I didn't do GCSE Art, but because of the work I did at the Saturday Club I had this portfolio of work that enabled me to study A-level Art and then Architecture. From there everything just fell into place.

Somebody said that Saturday Club is a model that's not going to be anywhere else in education – no one is going to take you to a museum and show you artists and unlock a city. I could see spaces that my heritage or tradition would never let me enter. Through the National Saturday Club, I ventured into museums and galleries – spaces filled with art, culture and heritage – for the first time. Observing the design and intricacies of people, their

Extracts from
Urvi's Summer
Show Private View
speech. Listen to
the full speech:





Urvi speaking at the Summer Show Private View

attire, society and, most importantly, the beautiful spaces that held them, the NSC was truly instrumental in realising my passion for architecture. I know how to be in these spaces now. Now I know how to design for the city that I want to be in.

On a much more personal level, Saturday Club did something for me – you showed me that a brief is not something I have to respond to. I can rip it up and make a collage – and it's my favourite thing to do."

Tutors' programme

“It’s been a remarkable journey as a Club tutor this year. Facilitating sessions has not only broadened my knowledge but also expanded my horizons. This role has enriched my network, connecting me with incredible individuals and offering me the unique opportunity to work with young, eager minds. Their open-minded and enthusiastic approach to problem-solving is truly inspiring.”

Favour Chinaza Anajemba, Club tutor,
Manchester Metropolitan University Science&Engineering

Saturday Clubs are led by an inspiring network of tutors and coordinators who run the weekly Saturday classes. It is as a direct result of their commitment and expertise, their knowledge of widening participation, their dynamic pedagogical approaches, and their experience of youth engagement, that Club members grow in confidence, build their skills, and broaden their understanding of the breadth of future pathways open to them

The annual Tutors' Programme brings Club tutors and coordinators together to share best practice, hear from expert speakers and feed back their experiences directly to the National Saturday Club team. The programme offers a professional development opportunity for the national network, creating an upward spiral of learning which informs the National Saturday Club's programme's development.



Club tutors and the National Saturday Club team at the Tutors' Conference

Programme Launch

Presented by the National Saturday Club's central team in October 2023, this online event provided Club tutors with an overview of upcoming events as well as programme highlights and key dates ahead. Expert tutors also presented to the wider network on their experience of supporting their Club members to engage with different aspects of the programme.

Networking events

Regional Relationship Managers organised opportunities for Saturday Club tutors and coordinators to come together locally for informal meet-ups. This new initiative supported local Club collaborations, built networks of support, engaged regional partners across industry and culture, and brought tutors together to share challenges and successes.

92% of Club tutors had a clear understanding of the national programme after the Programme Launch event

7 events across all regions of England
51 tutors attended local meet-ups



Tutors' Conference at Nottingham Contemporary

Tutors' Forum

The Tutors' Forum in February provided an online space for Club tutors from specific subjects to come together, share best practice and take part in professional development opportunities. The programme included expert speakers from CHEAD, City & Guilds, Into Film, the National Theatre and the Institution of Engineering and Technology who spoke about their varied approaches to youth engagement and subject focused pedagogy. There were also break-out group activities and a chance to explore themes and trends across the curriculum.

Tutors' Conference

In 2024, the annual Tutors' Conference was generously hosted by Nottingham Contemporary. The conference-style format provided a valuable opportunity for networking and for tutors to share experiences and expertise. Attendees explored topics such as "Creating a Saturday Club environment"; "The power of partnership: Saturday Club as a local ecology approach and a model for civic engagement"; and "Race, equality and inclusion in education" in a guest talk from Shabna Begum CEO, Runnymede Trust.

63% felt more connected to fellow subject tutors as a result of the Tutors' Forum

93% found the event valuable

87% said they had a chance to explore their practice

100% of attendees said the Tutors' Conference was valuable

“Witnessing the growth and creativity of our members has been inspiring. Planning engaging sessions and seeing the excitement on their faces reminds me why I love being a part of this community. It’s been a privilege guiding and collaborating with such talented individuals.”

Victoria Sandars, Club tutor, London Metropolitan University



Tutors' Conference at Nottingham Contemporary



Alumni case study

Shona Roberts

University of Brighton
Art&Design Saturday Club
2014–15



I took part in the Saturday Club in Brighton in 2014. When I initially signed up, all I really knew was how much of a creative outlet I needed and that I wanted to follow this through into a creative industry. But I had absolutely no idea in what or how to get there. We had art lessons at school, but I always had a much bigger picture in my head, and at the time I was restricted to drawing still-life, things like sweets thrown on a table ... It wasn't quite doing it for me. When NSC came to class and presented a fashion course, I jumped at it.

When I went into the first session I felt terrified. I didn't know anything about fashion, from using a sewing machine to understanding the basic differences between fabrics. I went in to the first session not knowing anyone there or what to expect from the experience. But I was met with the most amazing, patient tutors who treated us as equals and taught us the same, from basic skills to more advanced techniques, no matter what our previous experience was.

Our first brief was a group project to produce a garment on a mannequin, using paper to understand the shape and form of the body. I'll be honest, although I was rubbish at it at first, I quickly realised how much I had already learned in one day. Being at NSC had already begun to teach me how to think in a way I never had before. I walked out of the first session having made a bunch of new friends, which made me so much more confident in talking to new people. My confidence in what I was doing, and in myself, continued to grow throughout the weeks at the Club.

Extracts from
Shona's Summer
Show Private View
speech. Listen to
the full speech:





Shona's Saturday Club at a Pentland Brands Masterclass in 2015

The best part of the programme for me was the main project. It was based on upcycling old denim garments and re-forming them into something new. I really enjoyed this project, in particular learning how a design brief can have such a positive impact on the environment, and how we can problem-solve through art. This project gave me the inspiration to make an impact beyond the programme. I was able to link that environmental issue to social justice and wellbeing, which is a personal passion of mine. I learned that we can use design to encourage these uncomfortable conversations and bring about change.

Before NSC I was missing skills I had no idea I was even missing. The programme made me the person I am today and has played a huge role in my life. Before the National Saturday Club, I was adamant that I didn't want to go to uni. After the National Saturday Club, I couldn't imagine not going. Today I am able to say that I have graduated with an undergrad and postgrad in textile design, specialising in print. The programme changed my outlook on education, the enjoyment of learning and the importance of establishing new relationships. Most importantly, it showed me there isn't anything wrong in asking questions and making mistakes. It has made me realise that not only am I passionate about fashion and textiles, I am also talented in the field, too. It has opened up opportunities I didn't think were available to me and I am now able to do something I love doing, all thanks to the time I spent at the National Saturday Club."

Research and evaluation

Liz Cowley, Research and Evaluation Manager

Since its inception in 2009, the National Saturday Club has developed a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure:

- **Accountability and transparency: tracking progress and demonstrating effective use of resources**
- **Learning and improvement: allowing us to learn from experience and make informed decisions to improve the experiences of the young people and tutors**
- **Evidence-based decision-making: to guide our strategic planning and operational growth**

“Saturday Club was more than school, even if it was only one day a week. There are many experiences, from education to friendship, that can broaden a child’s horizons.”

Parent

Working alongside independent evaluation consultant Dr David Parker, we invite feedback from all key stakeholders, including the young people, and their parents and carers, Club tutors and host institutions and industry partners. This open and reflective approach to learning and tracking progress allows us to iteratively refine practice at the heart of our programme development.

Findings this year demonstrate consistent and long-term positive impacts on Club members’ confidence, creative capacities and awareness of future pathways. In addition, across the national network of educators, the sharing of best practice continues to improve and develop practitioners’ skills.

As the National Saturday Club continues to grow, we have also worked with Dr David Parker this year to develop a Theory of Change framework, which outlines the National Saturday Club’s model and identifies key mechanisms of change, outcomes and longer-term impacts alongside risks and assumptions. This has been developed with the whole team, with contributions from the Youth Board and the Tutors’ Advisory Group. The model has informed the development of two new strategies for Monitoring and Evaluation, and for Research, to allow us to explore key themes more deeply, including the value of non-formal learning, mental health and wellbeing, inclusive pedagogy, and the impact of the programme on skills and progression.

Club year in numbers 2023–24

Year in numbers

2,155 young people

106 Clubs

80 host institutions

387 tutors

111 student assistants

175 industry professionals

**“I feel important and
special – like I can
achieve anything!”**

Club member, University of Derby

Club experience

96% agreed that the tutors were supportive and approachable

94% found the atmosphere at the Club welcoming and inclusive

93% found the classes engaging

90% would recommend the Saturday Club to a friend

90% said the Club fulfilled their expectations

86% felt they had access to specialist equipment through their weekly classes

Outcomes

87% said their passion for the subject has increased because of the Club

78% have grown in confidence

73% have got better at communicating their ideas

70% found that attending has improved their outlook on the future

70% value working with other people more

“I learned that dreams are possible”

Club member, Merrist Wood College

Creativity

The National Saturday Club evaluates how the programme cultivates young people’s creativity in relation to five capacities identified in a model of creative development conceived by Bill Lucas, Ellen Spencer and Guy Claxton. The five capacities are imagination, collaboration, persistence, inquisitiveness and discipline.¹

95% noticed improvements in their creative capacities

Of the five capacities, imagination and collaboration were identified by Club members as those that they had **most improved** at the Saturday Club.

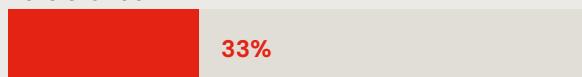
Imagination



Collaboration



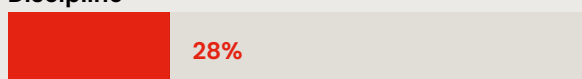
Persistence



Inquisitiveness



Discipline



1. *Teaching Creative Thinking: Developing Learners Who Generate Ideas and Can Think Critically (Pedagogy for a Changing World)*, Carmarthen, 2018.

Progression, careers, study

85% have a better understanding of the study and learning options available to them

81% know more about jobs and careers that are available

60% have left the Club wanting a job within their Saturday Club subject (32% are unsure)

40% say their future plans have been influenced by the Saturday Club (39% are unsure)

30% plan to apply to the college/university where they attended the Club (43% are unsure)

Parent & guardian feedback

98% said the Club was a valuable experience

92% said their child’s creativity had improved

90% said their child was more confident

89% noticed that their child was more willing to try out new things and “have a go”

82% said their child’s wellbeing had improved

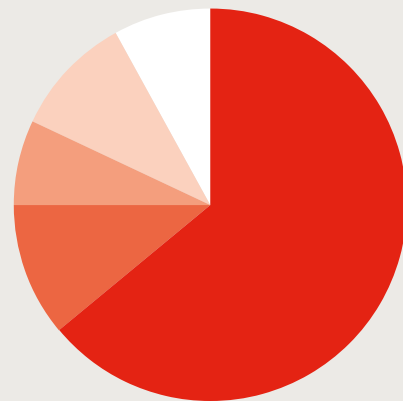
Widening participation²

76% of Club members are from a widening participation (WP) background.

- 30%** live in the 30% most deprived areas (Index of Multiple Deprivation)
- 27%** do not have a parent or guardian who has been to university
- 22%** receive free school meals
- 25%** have a neurodivergence
- 15%** have special educational needs
- 13%** have a disability
- 10%** speak English as an additional language
- 5%** have caring responsibilities (are a young carer)
- 4%** have experience of care

2. The National Saturday Club identifies young people to be from a Widening Participation (WP) background if they: receive free school meals; have experience of the care system; speak English as an additional language; experience disability; parents/guardians haven't been to university; are refugees or asylum seekers; are young carers; are from a military family; are from an under-represented ethnic background; have special educational needs; have a neurodiversity; are D/deaf or hard of hearing; are from a Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showman or Boating community; and/ or those who live in the 30% most deprived areas [Index of Multiple Deprivation].

Ethnicity



64% White and/or White British

53% White British
1% White Irish
10% Any other White background

11% Asian and/or Asian British

4% Indian
3% Pakistani
2% Chinese
1% Bangladeshi
2% Any other Asian background

8% Black and/or Black British

4% African
3% Caribbean
1% Any other Black background

10% Mixed or multiple ethnic background

2% White and Black Caribbean
2% White and Black African
3% White and Asian
4% Any other Mixed or multiple ethnic background

Any other ethnic group

0.5% Arab and/or Arab British
4% Any other
4% Prefer not to say

Gender

71.7% Female

26.2% Male

1.6% Non-binary

0.6% Any other gender



The boost of confidence I got from Saturday Club was life-changing or desire to attend university because of these big ambitions.”

Betsy, Youth Board member

from attending a
ging. I had no hope
before, yet I left with

Features

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Edited by Rachael Moloney

Extracurricular education – a vital right

Extracurricular education is widely acknowledged as life-enhancing, yet many young people are unable to benefit from it. Through its free and diverse programmes, the National Saturday Club is addressing this lack of equity and increasing the opportunities for all young people to expand and enrich their learning journey

The National Saturday Club believes it is a fundamental right of young people to pursue extracurricular activities, and to benefit from the educative and social advantages that these can bring. However, socio-economic and other factors frequently impede many young people's access to these valuable non-formal learning opportunities, denying them experiences that could broaden their horizons and positively impact their skills development and wellbeing. Past evaluation by the National Saturday Club has shown that **55%** of widening participation Club members were not taking part in any other regular out-of-school activities. This increased to over **60%** for young people from low income families,¹ in areas of deprivation² and young people whose parents had not been to university.³

As documented in the Education Policy Unit's 2024 report *Access to extra-curricular provision and the association with outcomes*,⁴ cost is just one of the roadblocks that young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds can encounter on the path to extracurricular education. A lack of knowledge about the opportunities that exist; a sense of not belonging in certain environments; and insufficient provision for those with a disability or special education needs can all hinder access. Research by the Social Mobility Commission has highlighted that gender, ethnicity and geographic location can also play a part in participation levels, as well as school attended, "with independent schools in particular likely to offer an unparalleled breadth and range of activities compared to state schools".⁵ →

Contributors

Jane Fernandes

Collective Action and Advocacy Manager,
Fair Education Alliance

Georgia de Buriatte

Saturday Club tutor and coordinator,
Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton,
and former member of the National Saturday Club
Tutors' Advisory Group

Matt Yeoman

Assistant Head Teacher,
Queen's Park High School, Chester

1. In 2023, 63% of Club members who were receiving schools meals were not taking part in other regular out of school activities; 81% were not taking part in other cultural or arts activities; 74% were not taking part in sports activities.

2. In 2023, 62% of Club members who were living in the 30% most deprived areas were not taking part in other out-of-school activities

3. In 2023, 66% of Club members whose parents had not studied at university were not taking part in other regular out-of-school activities

4. D. Robinson (2024), *Access to extra-curricular provision and the association with outcomes*, Education Policy Institute, p.5

5. M. Donnelly, P. Lažetić, A. Sandoval-Hernandez, K. Kumar and S. Whewall (2019), *An Unequal Playing Field: Extra-Curricular Activities, Soft Skills and Social Mobility*, Social Mobility Commission, p.6



Arup Masterclass with Cranford Community College and Art Classes Group

“These activities reinforce curriculum-based learning and create space for children with diverse interests to grow through play and creativity”

Jane Fernandes, Collective Action and Advocacy Manager, Fair Education Alliance

The increasing volume of quantitative and qualitative research underlining the benefits of extracurricular education, and the wider implications of unequal access to this type of activity, speak to the intrinsic value of all young people engaging in varied types of learning, both formal and non-formal, and the issue of social mobility, if many are unable to take up educational pursuits beyond the classroom. **Jane Fernandes, Collective Action and Advocacy Manager at the Fair Education Alliance**, supports the view that levelling access to extracurricular education is pivotal:

“The evidence is clear that extracurricular activities can support academic outcomes, wellbeing and better engagement with school, helping to address the attendance crisis. These activities reinforce curriculum-based learning and create space for children with diverse interests to grow through play and creativity. During extracurricular activities, pupils also learn skills for the future that can't be taught in a classroom. The socio-economic gap in the provision of extracurricular education is notable, with independent schools offering an exceptional range of activities compared to state schools. If this gap is not addressed, we will see the continuation of this societal divide as these pupils enter the workforce.”

The National Saturday Club's evaluation confirms that after engaging in its programmes young people experience a wealth of beneficial impacts, including improved self-confidence and wellbeing, the development of core skills they can apply in diverse contexts, and a widening of their social networks. For example, in 2023–24, 78% of Club members relayed that they have grown in confidence; 70% found that joining a Club has improved their outlook on the future; 73% have got better at communicating their ideas; 70% value working with other people more; 81% are better informed about potential jobs and careers; and 89% of parents or guardians noticed that their child was more willing to try new things and “have a go”.

These outcomes have both immediate and far-reaching effects, and are also evidenced in additional comments that Club members and their parents or guardians make at the end of each year. One Club member noted:

“Having these types of opportunities helped me realise how fun Saturday Clubs can be and made me feel confident to share my ideas and opinions. I believe this is a great age to experience a different curriculum [that may help you go] on to further education.”

Another commented:

“It feels nice to know you've done something outside of school. You get to express [your] feelings without being judged [and learn] skills that stretch off in different directions.”

For many parents or guardians, the impact of Saturday Club activity on their children is similarly positive. Two parents this year made the following comments:

“I imagine that it is a rare occurrence that one weekend course has the impact to change the trajectory of someone's life. However, in my son's case, I do think we have witnessed the very same.”

“It's expanded [my daughter's] mind meeting new people and trying out 'college life' in preparation for post-GCSEs. It's improved her confidence and she enjoyed it so much she would actually be happy to look at different courses to take up in future.” →



Our data shows the benefits of extracurricular learning

Club members' experience

- 93%** found the Club experience engaging
- 94%** found the atmosphere welcoming and inclusive
- 78%** said they had grown in confidence

Parent and guardian observations

- 82%** said their child's wellbeing had improved
- 90%** said their child is now more confident
- 92%** said their child's creativity had improved

Outcomes

- 87%** said their passion for their Club subject had increased
- 85%** said they have a better understanding of the study and learning options available to them
- 83%** found their skills had improved
- 81%** said they know more about jobs and careers
- 73%** have improved their communication skills
- 70%** enjoy working with other people more
- 30%** plan to apply to the college/university where they attended the Club

“The growth of a young person, not just in knowledge and skill but as a culturally rich, emotionally intelligent individual is vital.”

Matt Yeoman, Assistant Head Teacher, Queen's Park High School, Chester

Georgia de Buriatte, Saturday Club tutor and co-ordinator at Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton, relays her observations of the young people she has worked with, emphasising that the Club experience has numerous holistic advantages for individuals with different needs:

“There are some young people who experience emotion-based school avoidance, so for them to attend a Club consistently, even if they are not necessarily participating in the activity, is a huge win. Allowing these types of Club members to feel comfortable in more academic settings is my personal goal. Often after a few weeks, when their anxiety is reduced, they begin creating amazing things. For others who are attending school and performing well academically, the Saturday Club might provide some much-needed respite from their daily pressures. Having fun and playing is more important for them than making the most ‘skilful’ piece they can achieve.”

Viewed as a complement to mainstream schooling, time spent in the creative, non-formal and non-examination-based learning environment of a Saturday Club evidently has the potential to impact young people's perception of what they can achieve and what their future may look like. Such outcomes demonstrate that the Club's programmes are enabling real change for young people, which can positively influence their formal education.

Matt Yeoman, Assistant Head Teacher at Queen's Park High School in Chester, corroborates this view, outlining the wider value of extracurricular activity in his experience and the importance of widening access:

“The growth of a young person, not just in knowledge and skill but as a culturally rich, emotionally intelligent individual, is vital. In the UK, our formal, knowledge-based curriculum leaves little room for this development and so, particularly for young people whose cultural capital and extracurricular opportunities are low, we need to intervene and widen access to these activities. These opportunities allow students to be creative and collaborative, to develop ambitions not linked to targets, and ultimately encourage young

people to become interested in their own investment in the world. A passion for engaging in extracurricular education inevitably improves both attendance and attitude towards school itself, as it becomes a place less associated with the mundane and more with self-fulfilment and the less measurable but highly valued term enrichment.”

Acknowledging the significant advantages of taking up an extracurricular activity, especially for those young people currently under-represented in this sphere, the National Saturday Club is committed to expanding access to its programmes and to forging the partnerships that will help facilitate this. In 2023–24, 76% of Club members were from a widening participation (WP) background.⁶ Supporting the right of all young people to receive a diverse and rounded educational experience, irrespective of their background, is the Club's critical mission, and an effective way, it advocates, of nurturing the potential of the next generation. As a long-standing provider of high-quality and accessible educational programmes, the National Saturday Club supports the growing consensus that extracurricular learning should no longer be considered a “nice ‘extra’ but an integral part of childhood for all”.⁷ ■

6. The National Saturday Club identifies young people to be from a widening participation (WP) background who: receive free school meals; have experience of the care system; speak English as an additional language; experience disability; parents/guardians haven't been to university; are refugees or asylum seekers; are young carers; are from a military family; are from an under-represented ethnic background; have special educational needs; have a neurodiversity; are D/deaf or hard of hearing; are from a Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showman or Boating community; and/or those who live in the 30% most deprived areas (Index of Multiple Deprivation).

7. D. Robinson, (2024), *Access to extra-curricular provision and the association with outcomes*, Education Policy Institute, p.30.



The impact of local partnership working

In towns and cities throughout the UK, collaborative partnerships enable Saturday Clubs to offer young people greater access to high-quality learning programmes and a deeper awareness of the opportunities in their area. Strategic relationship-building by individual Clubs is key to this, and creates an ecosystem of support that has widespread advantages for Club members

Contributors

Dr Rhiannon Jones

Associate Professor (Civic Practice), University of Derby.
Head of Civic and Community.

Urvi Nandha

National Saturday Club alumna

Amanda Spruyt

Head of Learning, Nottingham Contemporary

For the past 15 years, engaging with a diverse range of cross-sector partners has proved an effective way of broadening the ways in which a Saturday Club can benefit its young members. Building relationships within the educational, cultural and industry sectors, at both local and national levels, expands a Club's reach and its capacity to provide members with a greater awareness of the learning and career pathways open to them. In addition, this approach has the advantage of creating a sustainable model for an individual Club's development, which can be adapted to suit local needs and opportunities.

On a macro-scale, collaboration with FE and HE institutions, cultural institutions and industry provides the foundations for key elements of the Saturday Club's national programme, such as its London and Manchester Visits, Summer Show and Masterclass series, while establishing micro-connections with local schools, businesses, youth and community groups helps boost regional Club member recruitment and the variety of place-specific learning experiences a Club can offer. All forms of Saturday Club partnership share the goal of opening more doors for young people, particularly those from underserved and under-represented backgrounds, and communities who may not have been able to access certain places and spaces before. Additionally, they may have been unable to pursue any form of paid-for extracurricular education, or lacked the awareness of how they may do so locally, for free.

Partnership working in a community context has the added advantages of creating a local network within which expertise and the undertaking of developing a Saturday Club can be shared, and of building a sense of civic engagement that can attract new partners to local Club networks. Connecting with diverse organisations also helps ensure that young people know that a Saturday Club exists in their area, and that there are multiple avenues they can take to further their interests. Where different organisations and individuals can broaden horizons and provide enriching educational experiences locally, young people's relationship with their own community can be greatly enhanced as well as their aspirations about their future options. →



Cranford Community College and Art Classes Group Masterclass with Arup

Local partnership working in practice

Many Clubs and their host institutions take the wide view when seeking potential partners to maximise the local impact of their Club. At the **University of Derby**, which runs a **Society&Change Club**, **Dr Rhiannon Jones, Associate Professor (Civic Practice)**, sought out a variety of stakeholders to help root the university's Club in the surrounding area and expand its activities. A contributor to a panel discussion on partnership working at the Tutors' Conference this year, **Rhiannon** shared her experience of collaborative working and of connecting with a spectrum of organisations:

"Collaboration and partnership working are critical to the setting up and running of our Saturday Club. If we didn't have these relationships in place, we couldn't do what we want to do for young people in our area. I had initial conversations with several chief executives of local organisations in Derby to sell a dream about what we could do if we worked together. Through these meetings we established partnerships with Derby County Community Trust, Derby Theatre and Artcore, a local community organisation. Other organisations which couldn't commit to a full partnership could commit to enabling or hosting individual Club sessions."

Taking a similar approach in forming cross-sector relationships in its vicinity, **Bracknell and Wokingham College**, which runs a **Film&Screen Club**, has worked closely with Wokingham Borough Council and Resource Productions to bring Club members into contact with nearby industry and broaden their understanding of their chosen subject. A member of the Berkshire Skills Cluster, a BFI initiative connecting local businesses, education and training providers, Resource Productions hosted a workshop for the Club's members on SFX Makeup, which revealed the type of vocational training and local job they could potentially pursue in future.

MAKE Southwest, which facilitates a **Craft&Making Club** in Bovey Tracey, Devon, has also drawn on the expertise of local business and professionals to introduce Club members to a far wider range of disciplines in their Club subject than they may encounter in their formal education. Partnering with Teign Valley Glass allowed the Club to invite its young members to a hot-glass demonstration and involve them in a workshop in which they had the chance to make their own utility glassware.

“Collaboration and partnership working are critical to the setting up and running of our Saturday Club. If we didn’t have these relationships in place, we couldn’t do what we want to do for young people in our area.”

Dr Rhiannon Jones, Associate Professor
(Civic Practice), University of Derby

Increasing opportunity for young people

The importance of expanding young people’s horizons and introducing them to environments they may not otherwise have encountered cannot be understated, attests **Urvi Nandha, a National Saturday Club alumna and master’s student at Manchester School of Architecture**. Speaking about partnership working at the Tutors’ Conference, she commented:

“I think it’s a really interesting choice to place the participant in certain spaces. One of the big things I experienced growing up was a hesitancy to cross the threshold of museums and galleries. It was a question of whether I should occupy that space and when I was there how should I occupy it? I grew up in an Indian household and we are always pushed towards more academic subjects. Cultural spaces were not part of my or my parents’ experience. When a Saturday Club came into my area, I jumped at the opportunity. I think Saturday Clubs are really good at guiding those young people who’ve never been into a museum into that space and reframing these buildings, which are designed for the public and the enrichment of everyone.”



Panel discussion at the Tutors’ Conference

At the University of West London, which hosts a Society&Change Club, the full Club programme has been designed around a collaboration with external partners to enhance Club members’ knowledge. By partnering with locally based professionals and organisations, including MindFood, Kew Gardens, Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery, the Felix Project and Southall Community Alliance, the Club has run sessions looking at the interplay between food, health and society. These sessions have included contributions from locally based experts, such as mental health charity workers, a professor of biomedicine and chefs. The practical activities enabled by this partnering afforded Club members the chance to enter new spaces, such as a professional kitchen and community garden, and engage in activities that were both instructive and inspiring. As well as providing a wider context for their subject, experiencing a range of environments, professional individuals and learning exercises also served to strengthen Club members’ social and collaborative skills. →

“You felt pride at the micro level, then you saw what had been happening at the national level – all the work, the different styles, the different approaches of Club members. As I’ve started working myself, I’ve realised what networking and connections made all this possible.”

Urvi Nandha, National Saturday Club alumna

In 2023–24

40 universities

23 further education colleges

17 cultural partners

175 industry partners

Our research shows that this year:

The national network of Saturday Clubs engaged with an additional **75 partner organisations and institutions** within their local communities to enhance their Saturday Club programmes

13,440 outreach contacts were made by our national Outreach Team to support Club member recruitment

670+ schools across the country had young people participating in the programme

“The key is to figure out how we can continue to work together to ensure there is service provision and networks to support our local communities and young people.”

Amanda Spruyt, Head of Learning,
Nottingham Contemporary



University of Lincoln Masterclass with Anurati Tandon

The wider impacts of local collaboration

The National Saturday Club's partnership model is designed to have advantages in both local and national contexts, and the impacts of its programmes are intended to ensure equity of access to extracurricular education in diverse locations across the UK. Considering her institution's role as a Club partner in the Nottingham area, **Amanda Spruyt, Head of Learning at Nottingham Contemporary**, outlined her view of the importance of collaborative working in her locale and in a wider sense. A panellist taking part in the Tutors' Conference partnership discussion, she said:

“Thinking about the partnerships we've been discussing and their positive impact on community and young people's services, there's obviously a huge amount of goodwill and people wanting to work together. In the face of challenging times, the key is to figure out how we can continue to work together to ensure there is service provision and networks to support our local communities and young people.”

Rhiannon Jones also highlighted the broader impacts of her Club's partnership working in Derby:

“All our Saturday Club activities take place at our partner locations across the city, so young people have an authentic engagement with these organisations. For example, last year Club members were able to be at Pride Park Stadium [home of Derby County Football Club], or in a local gallery, theatre or hip-hop school. This way of working was designed to create different types of environmental experiences for young people before they encountered the content delivered by Club tutors. For tutors, we often drew on the expertise of our partners for Club sessions. The young people responded to this in a really positive way.”

Shaping future pathways

The positive outcomes of the various collaborative approaches taken by Saturday Clubs countrywide is confirmed on a regular basis in the Club's annual evaluation. Year on year, there is evidence that joining a Saturday Club in their area elevates a young person's aspirations and their awareness of their further education and career options. For Club alumna **Urvi Nandha**, the influence of her Saturday Club experience in this respect was profound. At the Tutors' Conference she shared:

“Since joining an Art&Design Club and going on to study at Nottingham Trent University and Manchester School of Architecture, I've been working in industry. Recently I was sitting at my desk and I called my parents to say how much I loved my work. When I thought about how I got here, one of the key dominoes that fell into place was joining a Saturday Club. I remember vividly some of the studios we visited and workshops that we did as part of our Club. It wasn't just about the space we were in or the Masterclass that was being delivered, it was about interacting with the artist or designer and watching the way they moved and talked, and collaborated with people.”

“The National Saturday Club Graduation Ceremonies and Summer Show magnified this experience. We'd spent a year working towards an output and then we saw this output displayed in an exhibition. You felt pride at the micro level, then you saw what had been happening at the national level – all the work, the different styles, the different approaches of Club members. As I've started working myself, I've realised what networking and connections made all this possible.” ■

Exploring the National Saturday Club's pedagogy

Applied across a breadth of subjects, the National Saturday Club's teaching approach is designed to create a distinct learning environment in which young people acquire core skills, channel their creativity and build on their individual strengths. In dialogue with three tutors, we consider the principal features of the Club's pedagogy and its fundamental impacts on Club members

Contributors

Dr David Parker

National Saturday Club Special Advisor on Research and Evaluation

Dominic Heffer

Artist, Club tutor and Young Persons co-ordinator for Hull Culture and Leisure

Camilla Robinson

Club tutor and coordinator, City & Guilds of London Art School

Dr Naomi Braithwaite

Club tutor and coordinator, Nottingham Trent University

At the end of each year, Saturday Club members regularly convey that they feel more confident, more skilled in their chosen subject and better informed about their future options than prior to their Club experience. Since 2012, annual external evaluation has shown that these outcomes are consistent across the national network, evidencing that the Club's pedagogical approach results in numerous positive outcomes. The National Saturday Club's expert tutors are integral to this, as they design and lead the extracurricular programmes that inspire and inform Club members, and equip them with capabilities that can aid their progression.

Across eight subject areas, Club tutors shape their teaching practice to engage young people educationally, creatively and socially. In the non-formal yet structured and supportive environment of a Saturday Club, tutors' focus is on giving Club members the freedom and the means to discover their talents, to express their individuality and to nurture aptitudes that will benefit their wider learning journey. As the number of Saturday Clubs increases, identifying the essential principles and commonalities of this pedagogy provides an important guide to best practice and to the effects of the Club's pedagogy, which can be shared accordingly across the network and within the education sector more widely.

Through the Tutors' Programme, Conference and Advisory Group, Club tutors routinely discuss and examine the ways in which they shape Saturday Club pedagogy, and the structure of their programmes in a variety of disciplines. This dialogue is critical to the evolution of the Club's approach to teaching and learning, and to an appraisal of how it is enhancing young people's educational and social development.

Dr David Parker, National Saturday Club Special Advisor on Research and Evaluation, says:

“There are so many nuances and complexities when talking about pedagogy and pedagogical practice that it’s important to understand what your practice is and investigate the ways in which it is being delivered. Inviting tutors to talk about how they are devising individual programmes and engaging with their Club members is a vital part of us understanding how we can relate our activity to the outcomes for young people, and to the wider impacts of the Club’s pedagogical approach.”

In his assessment of the Club’s pedagogy to date, **David Parker** has identified a number of signature teaching methods adopted by tutors across all Club subjects. These methods include:

- encouraging self-expression and a sense of agency
- allowing for co-creation while basing activities around a project brief
- setting problem-based tasks
- developing a community of practice through group collaboration
- knowledge-sharing about future pathways

As **David Parker’s** research and external evaluation show, applied together these strategies stimulate Club members’ creative and critical thinking capabilities, improve their self-confidence and spark their overall enjoyment of learning. The result is a dynamic educational experience that can significantly alter young people’s understanding of a subject and their outlook on their options. →



Summer Show, 2024

Informed by the work of The Sorrell Foundation

The educational model that formed the precursor to the National Saturday Club was developed by John and Frances Sorrell, co-founders of The Sorrell Foundation and the National Saturday Club. Launched in 1999, The Sorrell Foundation engaged more than 100,000 primary- and secondary-school students across the UK, in numerous learning initiatives designed to show young people that their ideas can play a role in changing the world for the better.

Placing creativity and agency at the heart of the learning experience, The Sorrell Foundation’s programmes were designed to involve children and young people in projects centred around a real-world brief and topics that were directly relevant to them. For example, **Joined Up Design For Schools (2000–2006)** invited students aged between 4 and 16 to devise a design brief that would improve the quality of life at their school. A designer or architect was appointed to work with the young participants and together they formed a client-consultant relationship to work on possible solutions.

In the programme **Design Out Crime (2008–2010)**, young ‘advisors’ (school students and others not in formal education) were invited to raise crime issues that they had experienced at their school and in their community. They then worked with professional designers to look at solutions for reducing and preventing these crimes. The results were presented to local decision makers, community leaders and police officers.

The central aims of these initiatives – encouraging young people to express themselves and to acquire certain aptitudes through working with a brief – were carried through to the National Saturday Club’s programme design. Cultivating transferable skills and creative and critical thinking abilities remains at the heart of the Club’s teaching practice, and continues to prove a highly successful way of giving young people an enriching and transformative educational experience.



In conversation with tutors **Camilla Robinson,** **Dominic Heffer** and **Dr Naomi Braithwaite**

To illustrate how the Club's pedagogy is realised, we invited three experienced Saturday Club tutors to discuss their approach and their reflections on the foundational features that underpin the Club's pedagogy

Encouraging agency and self-expression

Teaching in the extracurricular environment of a Saturday Club, many tutors comment that young people's self-perception and understanding of their own creativity undergo significant changes as a result of their Club membership, and that this can have a powerful influence on their future aspirations and sense of agency. Commenting on his experience of running the **Art&Design Saturday Club at The Institute of Arts, Hull College and Ferens Art Gallery**, **Dominic Heffer** said:

"In Hull, which is a relatively small city, our Club is often young people's first experience of their own creativity and a sort of ignition point. The first thing we do is to give Club members sketchbooks and say, 'This is yours for the rest of the year. You can do what you want in it.' With this approach, we're trying to obliterate the line between the personal and the institutional. In a Club, young people are already in a very different pedagogical environment and their behaviours and reactions are different. Frequently, their work is so good that we say, 'We could pull that into this project we're working on'. They may reply, 'Really? I can use something like sketches of my favourite manga characters?' Club members are surprised when they discover that they can use their own personal work as a resource."

Creating opportunities for self-expression and personal decision-making is vital, concurs **Camilla Robinson**, who facilitates the **Craft&Making Club at City & Guilds of London Art School**. When Club members are shown that their ideas and responses have value, it can be a rare and important gesture, in her opinion:

"I don't think there are many opportunities for young people to express their identity. Our society doesn't give them that permission. People older than them are often telling them how to act. A Saturday Club is a space where the people running it are committed to saying, 'Be yourself'. The permissions of expression that Club tutors are giving may be through materials or design choices, or equipping them with a sketchbook to speak in their voice, but they are all powerful."

"It's interesting to think about how we enable young people and show them that having a voice can be a way forward. I was a secondary school teacher for a while and the learning experience there felt the opposite of this. A Saturday Club is a place where young people can understand their identity and emotional landscape. It's an empowering space for them and for us. We can see some of the problems they're facing and we're able to be part of a solution."

Co-creation and working with a project brief

Allowing for freedom of expression and co-creation while simultaneously encouraging group collaboration and interaction are fundamental aspects of the Club's pedagogy. Evaluation has shown that these approaches can boost both young people's self-confidence and their core communication and social skills. Basing teaching activities around a project brief gives Club members a chance to explore their own creativity and encourages them to work productively with their peers. **Dr Naomi Braithwaite**, who leads **Nottingham Trent University's Art&Design Club**, outlined how she structured her Club sessions this year and how her Club members' responded:

"I built my Club sessions around three different themes. The first was identity, where we looked at self-portraits. The second was about experimentation and working with different materials and forms. And the third, for the summer term, was centred on imagination. I asked my Club members to think about the question: 'What might Nottingham be like in the year 3000?' I asked them to work in small groups and bring together their passions, worries and hopes, and the issues they care about. It was really exciting to see how they connected with each other, sharing and debating ideas, and then using their creative practice to respond to these ideas. It wasn't my intention, but the theme of speculative futures was something Club members loved so much it came to underpin whatever they produced in the following weeks, in whatever medium we were working in. Co-creating in this way has been very inspiring."

Balancing group working and individual needs

Creating a supportive atmosphere is an important facet of the Saturday Club's pedagogy, and Club tutors are alert to where learning journeys may have to be tailored in a group of young people of varying ages and abilities. Addressing the needs of an individual Club member while encouraging social interaction and collaboration can be a balancing act, but the fruits of this approach can be many. As **Dominic Heffer** said:

"A high proportion of our young people are neurodiverse and like a structured environment where they are told what we'd like them to do. We differentiate between those who need this support and those who are more autonomous. Some Club members are able to take their own route after we've given them a springboard each week, and some require a little more guidance."

For **Dr Naomi Braithwaite**, allowing young people of different characters to develop and build social skills at their own pace is equally important:

"This year I had an all-girl Club and noticed many of them were particularly awkward with each other, more than in previous years. One Club member was painfully shy and would not communicate at all, so we did a lot of work to bring the group together in a relaxed way. By the fifth session, this Club member was starting to smile and she kept coming back. When we did the speculative futures project and split into groups, I asked each group to choose a spokesperson. It was this individual who spoke, which was surprising. Her mother said to me later that since joining the Saturday Club her daughter had really come out of her shell. I think the social side of my Club has been particularly significant this year."

Camilla Robinson added that the unthreatening and non-formal nature of the Club environment, and tutors' focus on individual needs, are especially important for young people at this point in time:

"The biggest impacts we see are shown in our questionnaire feedback at the end of the year. Our stats are really high: 85 to 95% of Club members say that their wellbeing and confidence have improved. This is at a time when the cohort of young people joining us were at home during the [COVID-19] pandemic. A lot of them present with different anxieties and appear quite isolated. They don't want to talk or mix, but actually that doesn't always mean they are unhappy. They may be happy being within this space but are just not talking. They can do that in a Saturday Club."

Creating a distinct learning environment

Irrespective of the subject strand and in addition to the signature teaching pedagogies, a Saturday Club environment encompasses a learning space that is immersive and non-prescriptive about outcomes. The Club's partnership with a diversity of host institutions affords Club members a unique array of learning opportunities, including interaction with tutors and practitioners who are experts in their field, and exposure to the well-equipped and advanced learning and cultural facilities of a university, further education college, museum or gallery. In turn, these environments allow tutors to introduce Club members to a wide breadth of activities, techniques, materials and equipment that can broaden a young person's awareness of the subject they're interested in and the study and career pathways that may be open to them.

For **Camilla Robinson**, tutoring in a setting that embraces experimentation and discovery is key in terms of the National Saturday Club's approach:

"I feel the outcome is secondary to the process and environment of a Saturday Club. Immersing young people in a certain practice is really important ... They need to feel it. Working with lots of different materials is a way in, but it's also about creating an environment in which young people feel empowered to express themselves and ask questions. →



University of Central Lancashire Masterclass with McGregor Coxall

"I try to appoint a diversity of makers to lead our Club, and City & Guilds Art School gives us an amazing range to choose from. Our Club members have the chance to be with tutors who all have a different process. They might be with a paper marbler for two weeks, or a stone carver for six. My goal is to expose them to as many different worlds as possible."

Naomi Braithwaite also underscored the benefit of the National Saturday Club's partnership model in this respect:

"Since running our Club, I've more fully integrated it into the university's School of Art and Design. This allows us to make the most of the variety of creative disciplines studied here, from painting, ceramics and textiles to costume, filmmaking and photography. I find this very exciting because it gives young people the opportunity to see and experience many things."

Knowledge-sharing to uncover new pathways

Evaluation indicates that young people's Saturday Club experience deepens their comprehension of their chosen subject, and reinforces their desire to pursue

related further or higher education and a career. In this respect, Saturday Club membership can be viewed as a bridge which young people can traverse to lead them in exciting new directions. Augmenting Club members' self-confidence and self-awareness about their individual potential is an essential stepping stone towards that bridge, commented **Dominic Heffer**:

"From the start, we say to Club members that they are all creative individuals and we're interested in them and what they do, whatever it is and wherever – it could be in their free time or at school. This year, for example, one of our members said they were doing their GCSE RS exam and thinking through what they needed to do. The Club member showed us her thought process and plan for her final piece, and it was clear that it tied into a particular method we were using in our Saturday Club. Taking what she had learned with us helped her with a creative problem for her exam, which really underpins the notion of building transferable skills. Skills are not boxed off. They can be useful in a Club, in school or anywhere. Seeing this interconnectedness is really important for young people."



Noting that a Saturday Club experience can show young people how they can apply what they've learned there, **Dominic Heffer** added:

"There are young people who I worked with in 2017 who were 16 years old at the time. I then worked with them again when they were aged 18 to 19 in the Future Ferens programme. Now they're at university. That's a wonderful trajectory I've been able to observe, and I absolutely believe the seed was planted in the Saturday Club."

Offering useful and practical information about possible pathways to further education, vocational training and jobs is a further vital "next step" aspect of the Club's teaching method, concluded **Camilla Robinson**:

"We see the potential of what young people can do, and work to embed them in that future. Sometimes it's as if they can see the door but they don't know the way in, or that there's another door, and another door behind the first one. We can help them see all the doors." ■

Supporting tutors' professional development

Recurrent testimonies from numerous Club tutors confirm that teaching a Saturday Club is not only a fulfilling experience but highly valuable in terms of their professional development. As many convey, it can result in a greater appreciation and understanding of young people, which can benefit a tutor's wider teaching practice. **Dr Naomi Braithwaite** described how running a Saturday Club has aided her work and pedagogical approach to teaching graduate students at Nottingham Trent University.

"My Club experience has been helpful for thinking about how I develop my own research and the questions that I ask. As a lecturer, I'm now more mindful and aware of how young people are experiencing life and issues like anxiety and stress. By communicating with young people in a Saturday Club I learn from them, and how creativity can be used to channel and express these emotions. This has made me think about how we can employ different pedagogies with university students as well, to fire their imagination in an assessment-driven environment. Running a Saturday Club is an amazingly enriching experience and rewarding on so many levels."

Dominic Heffer expressed a similar view:

"The National Saturday Club is a huge resource for learning. It helps me keep a finger on the pulse of young people and how they are feeling and experiencing the world. Feeding that knowledge back into the institutional organisations I work with is really useful as far as future programming goes. On a practical level, there may be things I am doing in my own studio practice that I can use in Club sessions, which keeps things fresh and also helps me as a practitioner."

Camilla Robinson explained how much she gains personally from facilitating Saturday Clubs, and that she sees the impacts of the National Saturday Club's programmes as extensive and profound:

"Since I started organising a Saturday Club for City & Guilds Art School, I've looked at various types of practice and made connections through the network that have enabled me to take on new projects. I wouldn't have done that without getting involved with the National Saturday Club. My work with the Club has expanded my process and materials knowledge, which I can now share as widely as possible. That's always my goal, to find ways to make the arts more accessible."

"I feel privileged to be part of the Saturday Club network, to have conversations like this and to meet and learn from other practitioners working in the field – it's such a gift."



Liam speaking at the Summer Show Private View



Alumni case study

Liam Thompson

Cornwall College
Art&Design Saturday Club
2019–23



My journey through the National Saturday Club has been a transformative experience. I joined the Cornwall College Art&Design Club at the age of 12, and from the very start it was a place where I felt safe and could develop my creative and leadership skills. More than that, it helped me become more sociable and comfortable working with others, which was a big step in my life. I used to struggle with social anxiety and found speaking in front of others and meeting new people very challenging. It was through the National Saturday Club that I grew confident in myself.

After a few years, I had the incredible opportunity to join the Youth Board. It was an eye-opening experience, and it taught me the importance of inclusion and representation in every aspect of life, including art.

One of the biggest lessons I learned through the Club is how universal creativity is. It's everywhere, sometimes in the most unexpected places. The Club didn't just fuel my passion, it showed me how to integrate it with my love for technology. This blend of interests led me to discover the beauty of website design, an area where I could combine my tech skills with creative expression. This new direction was a game-changer for me.

Today, I'm proud to say that I run my own freelance web development agency. I've had the privilege of working with clients from all over England, helping them bring their visions to life and developing their dream digital platforms. None of this would have been possible without the skills, confidence, and perspective I gained through the National Saturday Club."

Extracts from
Liam's Summer
Show Private View
speech. Listen to
the full speech:



Saturday Club Trust

“Just imagine if every 13–16-year-old in the country had the opportunity to attend a Saturday Club”

John and Frances Sorrell, founders

The Saturday Club Trust is an independent charity set up in 2016 to take over the development of the National Saturday Club network from The Sorrell Foundation

Established in 2009 by Sir John and Lady Sorrell, the National Saturday Club works with a shared purpose – bringing further education, higher education, industry and the cultural sector together – to deliver a transformational programme of extracurricular education for 13–16-year-olds nationwide.

By making all Saturday Clubs free with no exams, the year-long programme encourages young people from all backgrounds to get involved in a unique and exceptional process of discovery and learning that works alongside the school curriculum. Through weekly classes and national events, young people are connected with a national network of educators and industry professionals, giving them invaluable insight into the pathways to further study and rewarding careers.

The Board of Trustees and the Saturday Club Trust are ambitious and focused on ensuring that young people from all backgrounds and communities have access to the programme. Through the establishment of new Club locations, and by continually reviewing and removing barriers to participation, the Trust will continue to develop the National Saturday Club programme to offer this opportunity to more young people across the UK.

The Saturday Club Trust receives public funding from the Department for Education and the National Lottery through Arts Council England. It is also supported by DCMS, the British Film Institute, the British Fashion Council, the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust, the Clore Duffield Foundation and industry partners.

The National Saturday Club is prioritising the involvement of young people and the national network of educators in organisational development through the Tutors' Advisory Group and Youth Board of alumni. The Board of Trustees is committed to this effort and seeks to further integrate the perspectives of its network of partners and beneficiaries. The conversation highlights the importance of involving diverse voices in decision-making processes to ensure the organisation's continued growth and success.

Trustees

Sir Nigel Carrington, Chair
Katie Greenyer
Russell Lloyd
Professor Nona McDuff OBE
Anne Morrison
Sim Scavazza
Lady Frances Sorrell CBE, Founder
Sir John Sorrell CBE, Founder
Philip Watkins

Advisory Board

Caroline Hargrove CBE FREng
Dr David Parker
Patrick Reid
Judith Rosser-Davies
Cecilia Weckström
David Weil
Professor Julius Weinberg

Tutors' Advisory Group

The Tutors' Advisory Group brings the voice of the network to the forefront of programme development. Formed as a group of National Saturday Club tutors and coordinators drawn from across the country with a breadth of subject specialisms, educational expertise and backgrounds, the Tutors' Advisory Group meets quarterly to explore key issues and topics central to the evolution of the programme

2023–24 Tutors' Advisory Group

Joanne Ainslie

Learning, Engagement and Outreach Officer, St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery

Sophie Ascough

Saturday Club tutor
MIMA, Teesside University

Dr Naomi Braithwaite

Associate Professor and Saturday Club coordinator and lead tutor
Nottingham Trent University

Marinela Caldarus

Director
Art Classes Group

Sabby Jamal

Saturday Club tutor
Northumbria University

Ebony Moreno

Saturday Club tutor and coordinator
York St John University

Camilla Jayne Robinson

Director, Widening Participation,
City & Guilds of London Art School

Elle Simms

Experiential Learning Tutor, Rise Programme,
Manchester Metropolitan University

Imogen Skipper

Student Recruitment Officer,
Buckinghamshire New University



Workshop at the Tutors' Conference at Nottingham Contemporary

Discussion topics

Topics for discussion are identified by both the National Saturday Club and members of the group, covering commonly shared experiences, newly arising themes, and current challenges impacting the network. In 2023–24, three topics were explored:

Club member recruitment and retention

Focused on how to better reach young people from widening participation backgrounds. The Tutors' Advisory Group explored how the network can better engage family members, teachers and the wider community. These discussions also included ways to reach out directly to young people and what has worked across the current programmes, as well as how to keep Club members engaged throughout the programme to support their journey.

Theory of Change

Considered how the Tutors' Advisory Group can inform the National Saturday Club's Theory of Change framework, which has been newly developed this year. Discussions included topics such as establishing productive Club spaces and setting tasks that promote creative capacities.

Programme development

Explored the development of the National Saturday Club's programme of national events and activities, including new area meet-ups for Club tutors and how to make these impactful for the network, guidance on our conference topics and structure, as well as providing feedback on how our national events can better support the engagement of young people and tutors.

Actioning feedback

The Tutors' Advisory Group presents a quarterly report to the Board of Trustees, to ensure the tutors' network informs organisational governance and decision-making. The National Saturday Club team regularly reviews recommendations from the group, building new initiatives into the programme's development.

This year, feedback from the Tutors' Advisory Group has helped to inform Club member recruitment initiatives and enabled the team to develop additional support structures for tutors and coordinators in their outreach and promotion of the programme.

Relationship Managers in the North, Southwest and Southeast of England as well as Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have also been working with tutors and institutions where additional support is required, making use of feedback and insights from the Tutors' Advisory Group to inform these discussions, particularly around best practice for partnership building and advocacy.



Alumni case study

Rishaan Shaik

Kingston University London
Science&Engineering Saturday Club
2021–22



When I first joined the Saturday Club, I was filled with excitement and anticipation for what lay ahead. The prospect of immersing myself in a community of like-minded individuals, eager to explore and learn, was truly fascinating. Little did I know just how profoundly this experience would shape me.

Starting from small efforts to get to Kingston with other Club members and having a laugh, to competing against them in challenges, have all been valuable experiences for me.

The best part has been the mentorship and guidance provided by our dedicated tutors. Their unwavering support, expertise and encouragement have been instrumental in my growth. They have not only imparted valuable knowledge but have also instilled in us a sense of confidence and curiosity that will drive us forward in our future endeavours.

One of the most enriching aspects of my journey with the National Saturday Club has been the friendships I've forged. From day one, I found myself surrounded by peers who shared my passions and aspirations. Together, we navigated challenges, celebrated successes and supported one another through every aspect of the Club. These bonds have not only enriched my time here but have also created lasting connections that I will cherish forever.

When I thought the Club had come to an end, I stumbled upon one of the greatest opportunities, to be part of the first ever National Saturday Club Youth Board.

Extracts from
Rishaan's Summer
Show Private View
speech.

Listen to the full
speech:





Rishaan at a Youth Board meeting

The opportunity to join the Board has been a remarkable chapter in my journey. It has allowed me to give back to this incredible community and work towards its continuous improvement.

Whether it is approaching and reconnecting with the alumni members, visiting Clubs and seeing the Club members' talent, the Summer Show itself or many more discussions and future possibilities, it truly doesn't end there, because what the Youth Board does, is speak to current issues.

I am quoted on the National Saturday Club website: "If you don't speak, your ideas won't be implemented," and what we discuss in the Youth Board has been implemented. Collaborating with fellow Board members, I have had the privilege of contributing to the Club's mission, creating more bonds and establishing contacts that will undoubtedly benefit the Club and its members.

Through this role, I have witnessed first-hand the dedication and passion that fuels the National Saturday Club. It is a community built on the foundation of mutual respect, shared goals and a commitment to nurturing talent. I am immensely proud to be a part of it and excited for the future that lies ahead."

Youth Board

Launched in 2022, the Youth Board is a key element of the National Saturday Club's governance. It champions young people's voices and insights, bringing together alumni from diverse backgrounds and communities across the country to influence the future of the programme. The inaugural Youth Board came to the end of their term in June 2024 and a new cohort will be announced in October 2024.

Discussion topics

2022–23

Vision and mission of the Youth Board

Strategies for Club member recruitment

Inclusive programming, governance and ethics

Alumni network purpose and development

2023–24

Setting intentions for the Board

Youth-focused communications

Reporting and reflections on the role of the Youth Board

Theory of Change, evaluation framework

2022–24 Youth Board

Betsy

Kathija

Liam

Max

Nate

Noreen

Rishaan

Yusra

Zhainab

The Youth Board reflects on their experience

Written by Andrew Tomlins

On Saturday, 20 April 2024, the inaugural National Saturday Club Youth Board had its penultimate meeting. The group came together to reflect on their experiences with the Youth Board and had a focused opportunity to voice their thoughts.

Throughout its tenure, the Youth Board met for a range of discussions, underwent training, had VIP access to events and took part in bespoke workshops led by the National Saturday Club's network of partners.

The Youth Board was assembled to give young people a stronger voice, championing the thoughts, feelings and insights of a diverse group of young people. Made up of 9 former Club members aged 14 to 20 years old, the group met quarterly, sometimes in person and sometimes online, to partake in a variety of sessions.

Within moments of meeting the group, it became clear that over the past 18 months they have become close-knit; despite differences in age, interests and backgrounds there was an overwhelming sense of respect between the peers. Conversations were varied and there was genuine excitement about which subjects they would cover as discussions headed off in different directions.



Like many members of the group, Betsy applied because she wanted to remain involved with the National Saturday Club:

"I thought it might be formal and business-ee but it isn't, it's fun, communal and more casual than expected. I hope our work and photos will allow future Board members to know what to expect."

The current members are keen to spread the word about the Youth Board. Rishaan spoke of plans to speak to his local Saturday Club about the opportunities he had received. Later on in the meeting, Betsy also spoke about the impact of the Youth Board on her life:

"The important things I've done in my life are because of the Youth Board and the opportunities it has given me. For example, I would never have gone to the Fashion Awards if it wasn't for the National Saturday Club. You need valuable contacts and connections, and the Youth Board has helped with that massively."

With their final meeting approaching, the group is passionate about sticking together. The members were pleased to hear of plans to attend a Private View of the Summer Show, and hope to remain linked with the National Saturday Club where possible.

Nate was passionate about more people knowing about the National Saturday Club. He said:

"I've mentioned the National Saturday Club to countless friends of mine and none of them have ever heard of it. It's such a great opportunity and I wish more people knew about it."

While nobody knew what might lie ahead when applying for the Youth Board, the experience surpassed expectations for all members. In addition to learning new skills and making contacts, every member spoke about how the Youth Board had developed their confidence and communication in a range of ways. Betsy said:

"I'm not afraid to speak to people higher up than me, because I know that if you don't speak up about something the change won't be implemented. If you want to see change, then you've got to be that change."

The experience in one word ...

Inspiring

"It's inspiring to be part of something with people who care so much"

Betsy

Important

"Within recent months we've started to see the impact of the things we've been doing"

Nate

Sharing

"We've all had individual experiences and have learned from each other"

Max

Eye-opening

"It's nice to be able to listen and understand other people's points of view which are impacted by their environment, upbringing and experiences"

Liam

Family

"We've become a small community, society and family and have brought our own experiences together. Family sums up the experience perfectly!"

Rishaan



Actioning feedback

Following each Youth Board meeting, discussion points are compiled and the National Saturday Club team review recommendations from the Board, building new initiatives into the programme's development. From 2022–24, this has included informing early-stage thinking on the development of an accessible and engaging alumni programme; informing programming of the national events including guest speaker selection; considering how the Club member recruitment strategy could best reach diverse young audiences; sharing ideas and recommendations on approaches to youth-focused communications; and reflecting on the development of the National Saturday Club's Theory of Change evaluation framework.

With support from the Saturday Club Trust, an end-of-year summary of the Youth Board's discussions and recommendations is presented to the organisation's senior leadership and Board of Trustees. This ensures that the voices and experiences of the National Saturday Club's young people are incorporated into decision-making and the development of the programme at the highest level.

“My experience as a member of a Saturday Club was so exhilarating. I wanted to join the Youth Board because I believe the world can often underestimate young people. I believe every voice should be heard, no matter what their age.”

Yusra

“Through this role, I have witnessed first hand the dedication and passion that fuels the National Saturday Club. It is a community built on the foundation of mutual respect, shared goals and a commitment to nurturing talent. I am immensely proud to be a part of it.”

Rishaan





Every session was a highlight and inspiration. Whether it was in a Club member's understanding or a development of a complex, countless moments left us in awe of members' talent and dedication.

Vi Wang, Saturday Club student assistant,
UCL Bartlett School of Architecture.

reel of innovation
as a breakthrough
ending of the session
tely original idea,
awe of our Club
ion.”

Financial overview

The National Saturday Club has a robust and streamlined financial framework for programme delivery which encompasses year-round planning, monitoring and reporting. Budgets are set in advance for each academic year and are strongly adhered to, with the Chief Executive and Finance Director reporting quarterly to the Board of Trustees to ensure value for money and cost-effective decision-making

Match-funded model

The programme is delivered through a unique match-funded model, with approximately **50%** of programme costs covered by the individual host institutions (universities, colleges and cultural institutions) and **50%** covered by the Saturday Club Trust charity. This enables the National Saturday Club to be completely free for its beneficiaries at the point of delivery, removing barriers to access – which is a cornerstone of our mission and ethos. It is through this partnership model with HE, FE and cultural sectors collaboratively supporting extracurricular education and cultural access, that the National Saturday Club and its partners can deliver the programme efficiently.

The National Saturday Club is responsible for expanding the reach of the programme, establishing new partnerships and running the national network, alongside research and evaluation, marketing and communications and the delivery of national network events including the London Visit, Masterclasses, Summer Show, Tutors' Programme and the Youth Board.

Host institution costs comprise tutors' fees, and materials for the weekly classes, and transport for Club members, where required.

Saturday Club Trust income for 2023–24

The National Saturday Club has been core funded by the Department for Education and the National Lottery through Arts Council England since 2012. In 2023–24, project funding continued from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport via Arts Council England for an 18-month period to further expand the programme's reach by engaging more young people. We also commenced receipt of funding from an Arts Council England Nationally Significant Project Grant to fund the planned growth strategy. 2023–24 also continues with a significant expansion of support for the Film&Screen programme over three years from the British Film Institute through their National Lottery-funded Young Creatives programme. The British Fashion Council supports the Fashion&Business programme, the Clore Duffield Foundation supports the Performance&Theatre programme, and the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust supports the Craft&Making programme with generous funding from Howdens Joinery. The remainder of the Trust's annual income is made up by additional smaller grants, partnerships, and philanthropy, together with in-kind support.

2023–24 has seen significant improvements in the diversification of income with eight established income streams. With this increase in income, the 2023–24 financial year will undergo a full audit, following which a comprehensive financial report will be available to funders and supporters. The Trust will continue to increase income diversity to further improve the financial stability of the organisation for the long-term.

This income excludes the significant in-kind support we continue to receive from our generous supporters. Over the years, the Trust has established partnerships with many individuals and organisations who provide services free of charge or at cost. The value of these services has been estimated at well over £500,000 per annum.

Funding network growth

The National Saturday Club has been in operation for fifteen years and as the network has steadily grown, the cost of delivering the programme and supporting the network's development has increased. However, through economies of scale, as the number of Saturday Clubs increases over the next few years, the cost per Club is forecast to decrease with long-term value for money.

The Trust has also invested in fundraising with the establishment of a Development Director role in the forthcoming year, generously supported by grant funding. As we look to the future, we will seek new partnerships with grants, foundations, industry partners and philanthropic donors to support our ambitious growth strategy. It is as a direct result of this support that the National Saturday Club will be able to reach even more young people, develop research and best practice sharing for the wider sector, and expand the programme's transformational impact.

Masterclass givers

This year, **69 Masterclasses** have been generously led by a wide range of inspirational individuals and dynamic teams across a breadth of industry sectors. Engaging with professional practitioners provides Club members with an exceptional opportunity to gain insight into career pathways and possibilities for their future

Explore this year's Masterclass activities:



Adobe

Sam Adeyemi, Nic Kemp, Samara Lynch, Celeste Menich, Chadia Mounim, Barry Ruddock, Byron Wijayawardena

Creativity is in Adobe's DNA. Their game-changing innovations are redefining the possibilities of digital experiences. They connect content and data and introduce new technologies that democratise creativity, shape the next generation of storytelling and inspire entirely new categories of business. Adobe are passionate about creativity for all and inspiring the next generation to tell their stories through creativity.

Akaash Meeda, Directors Charitable Foundation

The DCF is the charity for the UK's screen and stage directors. They have two aims: to support and help directors in need, and to inspire young people – particularly those who are under-represented in directing – to consider a career as a director. This Masterclass was delivered by Akaash Meeda, who has worked in scripted development at Left Bank Pictures and Scott Free, and directed 2nd unit on *Catherine the Great* and *A Discovery of Witches*. He has also directed his own blocks of television, including *Man Like Mobeen*, *The Lazarus Project* and *G'Wed*.

Amy Williams

Amy Williams is a freelance artist and facilitator working on socially engaged art projects. Over the last 20 years Amy has been developing her skills in paper, creating both 2D and 3D work. Amy has taken on many commissions from cultural venues, creating paper installations that often have a participatory element. She is currently working on an Arts Council funded project. Amy has a particular interest in working with young people and is passionate about inspiring creativity in others.

“It was fantastic to see our Club members understand the value of working with industry to contextualise their programme and involvement in our Club. It was a great opportunity for our Club members to work with industry experts and hear about their careers.”

Krishna Maroo, Society&Change Club tutor, University of West London

Andrew Winch

Jay Chury, Kirsten Hill, Jason Richardson, Andrew Winch

Andrew founded Winch Design in 1986 with his wife, Jane. Since then, Winch Design has gone on to deliver some of the most iconic yachts at sea today. Now recognised as one of the world's leading superyacht designers, Andrew's unerring attention to detail and quest to push design and technical boundaries has successfully taken the business into the wider areas of aviation, architecture and interior design.

Anurati Tandon

Anurati Tandon is a designer-maker whose practice focuses on using natural materials such as paper and food and plant waste, repurposing them into functional products to present solutions to the socio-environmental problems prevalent today. Researching through making, she develops her ideas with a multidisciplinary approach, merging disciplines and techniques.

Arup

Tamanna Abul, Illia Afifuddin, Tamy Bahrouji, Ed Clark, Hannah Dawn, Balduino Del Principe, Robbie Fogarty, Mahmoud Ibrahim, Iana Lacovlev, Abdullah Mahmoud, Roheemot Oyebamiji, Rahul Prakash, Sophia Rawlins, Logan Schott

Dedicated to sustainable development, Arup is a collective of designers, advisors and experts working across 140 countries. Founded to strive for humanity and excellence in everything that they do, Arup collaborate with their clients and partners, using imagination, technology and rigour to shape a better world.

Birungi Kawooya

Birungi Kawooya is an artist researcher exploring ways of being well in community, inspired by nature, Black feminisms, East African material and sonic culture. She creates using sculpture, natural fibres and batik indigenous to Uganda. Through her mindful African art programmes and art installations, Birungi supports participants to reimagine liberation.

Boeing

Lois Capel, Abdullah Ehsan, Yazid El Alj, Olivia Forbes, Marsha Ilina, Adam Johnstone, Katrina Leah, Faizan Masood, Maria O'Higgins, Stephen Tran

This Masterclass was run by Boeing's EASA modifications team, which offers interior cabin modification and reconfiguration services for commercial aircraft. They manage all aspects of the design, integration, validation and certification process of interior modifications.

Bond & Coyne

Mike Bond, Eadaoin Barrett, Cynthia Porta, Eddie Ker

Bond & Coyne is a creative design studio in London. They work with ambitious organisations to develop brands, campaigns and digital technologies. Their mission is to use design to open up knowledge and opportunity to everyone, no matter who they are.

Brinkworth

Adam Brinkworth, Marnie Brinkworth, Imogen MacColl, Lucy Porter

East-London based design consultancy Brinkworth is behind some of the most iconic retail concepts of all time.



Reading College, Activate Learning Masterclass with CQ Studio

British Fashion Council

Nuria Garcia-Arbos, Maisie Clarke, Saad Khaleel, Dominic Osbourne

The British Fashion Council's mission is to establish a dynamic, inclusive and unified community that advocates for British talent, innovation and creativity. Through meaningful and authentic engagement with all stakeholders, they aim to foster collaboration, inspire innovation, stimulate connections, inform, provide access and promote mutual growth. Through their commitment to excellence, they want to empower their community and pioneer new approaches that drive progress and create lasting tangible impact.

Centre of the Cell and CHILL (Children's Health in London and Luton)

Centre of the Cell: Jessica Moon, Mez Hakim, Ishika Ali, Sofia Miettinen,
CHILL: Ian Mudway, Jessica Mitchell, Rosamund Dove

Centre of the Cell is a science education centre at Queen Mary, University of London. It is the first science education centre in the world to be located within working biomedical research laboratories. Their two distinctive Learning Pods are based at the Blizard Institute, part of Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, so visitors can see research scientists at work as they enter. Once inside, visitors will learn about the amazing world of cells, the human body and the latest medical research.

Ceres Power

Dr Mehdi Choolaei, Anjali Devadasan, Dr Rafael Leiva Garcia, Dr Daniel McDowall, Goel Megha, Dr Mahfujur Rahman, Dr Estelle le Sache, Jessica Tjandra

Ceres Power is a pioneering force in climate technology, driving a revolutionary energy transition to deliver clean energy solutions globally. Committed to sustaining a clean, green planet, the company exemplifies values of wholehearted commitment, creative collaboration and precise pioneering. As leaders in solid oxide electrolyzers and green hydrogen technology, Ceres Power sets the pace, addressing climate-change challenges and air quality while expanding its impact through global partnership.

CQ Studio Cassie Quinn

Cassie Quinn is a multidisciplinary designer, a PhD candidate in Regenerative Textiles at Living Systems Lab, Central Saint Martins, and the founder of CQ Studio, which she established during her Masters in Biodesign from Central Saint Martins. She conducts R&D into regenerative textiles for fashion. Cassie focuses on post-industrial waste, regenerative plants and post-consumer waste to demonstrate transforming waste into worth by developing innovative materials, some of which include using food waste to clean wastewater to make plastic-free sequins.

Deborah Latouche

Deborah Latouche is the Creative Director and founder of sustainably conscious, demi couture, modest wear brand SABIRAH. After years of working in the fashion industry as a stylist and journalist for companies such as *Elle Italia*, the *Sunday Times* and Universal Music, Deborah launched SABIRAH in February 2020 at London Fashion Week.



City & Guilds of London Art School Masterclass with Hand & Lock

eBay

Beth Alexander, Meg Beaty, Lucy Peacock

Beth Alexander currently leads the Fashion and Health & Beauty trading team at eBay, working with sellers to deliver market-leading value for their buyers. Prior to eBay, she worked in large global FMCG companies such as L'Oréal, Tesco & WHSmith Travel, leading teams within commercial, retail marketing and business strategy planning roles, and also has experience in Far-East sourcing and private label production.

Ella Doran

Ella Doran is a highly acclaimed designer, textile maker, photographer and teacher, and is currently teaching on the RCA's Interior Design MA. Her award-winning portfolio includes own-label homewares and interior furnishings, alongside commissions for public and private clients. A founder of URGE and an RSA Fellow, Ella champions circular-economy principles through public engagements and teaching projects. Her solo show and documentary on material circularity and transparency, *Sheep to Seat, Fleece to Floor*, was held at Yorkshire Sculpture Park in 2019.

Government Art Collection

Shasti Lowton, Oliver Smith

The Government Art Collection displays works of art in over 365 UK government buildings around the world. Containing over 14,700 works of art including pieces from the 16th century to today, the collection works to promote British art, history and culture across the globe.

Hand & Lock

Freya Stanford

Hand & Lock are London's premier embroidery house providing embellishment services to the Royal Family, top European design houses, the Armed Forces, Savile Row and members of the public. In their central London atelier they offer a range of services, from hand monograms and bridal customisation to goldwork blazer badges and machine-embroidered logos. Every commission they undertake receives the highest care and attention from their team of dedicated embroidery designers and expert embroiderers.

Howdens Joinery

Adrian Heaton, Justin Hibbert, Hannah Parker, Carol Walker

Howdens, the UK's number one trade kitchen supplier established in 1995, provides trade customers with kitchens, joinery and hardware products, via 800 local UK depots. They pride themselves on high-quality ranges, trusted trade relationships and local design expertise. One in four of their products is manufactured in the UK, and product innovation is at their core. They were founded on the principle that their business should be worthwhile for all concerned.

ITV Academy

Karen Connolly, AJ Dean, Lee Rayner

The ITV Academy provides development programmes for their own production staff, as well as traineeships and entry-level pathways into one of the world's largest commercial production companies. By being part of the ITV Academy, participants are offered industry-leading production training and feel connected to a well-networked and supportive cohort.

“I valued seeing the enormity of possible careers”

Club member

Jason Bruges Studio

Jason Bruges, Hazel Hedges, Gavin Jones, Hua Zhang

Jason Bruges is a London-based multidisciplinary artist and designer. Pioneering the space between art, architecture and technology, his artworks explore interventions and experiences that respond to their surroundings and connect people with their environments. In 2002, he founded Jason Bruges Studio, where he works with his team delivering projects worldwide.

Jess Grimsdale

Jess Grimsdale is a traditional signwriter and folk artist based in Bristol. When she's not by the canal painting a narrowboat or in a barn painting a fairground ride, she's using her skills and knowledge to hand paint vintage enamelware pieces. These are sold at markets, and help to introduce the heritage craft of signwriting in a unique way to a wider audience.

Jim Le Fevre

Jim Le Fevre is a BAFTA and BAA (British Animation Awards) award-winning animation director with over 20 years' experience making commercials, title sequences and TV animation. As passionate about exploring traditional techniques as he is about experimenting with the animated form, he created the Phonotrope in 2006, a contemporary reworking of the Zoetrope, as well as the interactive process “Frames”.



Northbrook College Masterclass with Jason Bruges Studio

John Smedley

Tim Clark

Tim Clark is the Technical and Sustainability Director at John Smedley. He looks after their raw-material procurement, merino wool and branded cotton, ensuring transparency throughout the supply chain and reducing carbon emissions year on year.

Karen Chambers

Karen Chambers produces, directs and brings to life compelling documentaries that explore compelling storytelling for UK television. Her mission is to tell challenging, culturally engaging stories. Karen has more than 15 years' experience in developing and delivering culturally sensitive and impactful storytelling for BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Three, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and Sky.

Kid Karam

Kid Karam and Trinity Warriors

Karam Singh, aka Kid Karam, is the first official Team GB breaker and star of the Sky Cinema film *Breaking Point*. Born and raised in Derby and an alumnus of its university, Karam has been breaking since the age of eight and has competed in several national and international tournaments.

“The Masterclass was a fantastic experience. It was inspiring to see the young people’s curiosity and eagerness to learn about green technology and its impact on the environment.”

Dr Mahfujur Rahman, Ceres Power

Laura Rees & Liam Coutts

Liam Coutts, Laura Rees

Liam Coutts is a freelance producer at B Good Picture Company. He produces work for Amazon Studios, Sky Arts, BFI, Channel 4, Tate Britain and Sony Music. Liam’s debut feature film was Hammer Horror’s *Doctor Jekyll*, starring Eddie Izzard.

Laura Rees, with a background producing international news, and numerous short films, was awarded a scholarship to NFTS’ producing course in 2006. There, she produced numerous films, including *Brixton 85*, which won the RTS Student Award 2010, and feature film *Kin*.

M&S Archive

Caroline Bunce

The M&S Archive preserves, develops and shares the company’s unique collection of over 72,000 objects, and their permanent exhibition brings the remarkable ongoing story of M&S to life through interactive and accessible exhibits. The work conducted at the Archive enables M&S to celebrate and use their rich heritage for the good of the business, their customers and the wider community.

Manolo Blahnik

Jodie Blake, Rowena Butterwick, Ellen Dick, Imogen Harvey, Stefano Laudisa, Gabriella Minchella, Gavin Norton, Milli Ollerton, Holly Roberts, Abigail Swain

Manolo Blahnik is one of the world’s most influential footwear designers. Over the years Blahnik’s achievements have been recognised by various bodies, most recently the Couture Council in America and the independent luxury body Walpole, which presented Manolo Blahnik with their “Luxury Legend” award. Blahnik was awarded an Honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty the Queen. He has also published numerous books, including *The Art of Shoes* with Rizzoli in 2017.



Manchester Metropolitan University Masterclass
with Manolo Blahnik

McGregor Coxall

Steven Kennedy, Tanvi Khurmi, Amy Marsden

McGregor Coxall, a multidisciplinary design firm with offices in Australia and the UK, integrates global expertise with local insight to tackle urban and environmental challenges. Blending design and engineering, they weave culture and ecology into projects. Their approach prioritises innovation, client collaboration and efficient, sustainable solutions, supported by meticulous planning and a commitment to excellence, evident in their award-winning portfolio.

MOBIE

Gerry Ruffles

MOBIE promotes the importance of homes, education, innovation and inspiration to drive their ambition for better standards of living. Gerry Ruffles is Head of Education for MOBIE, with responsibility for MOBIE’s range of Advanced Home Futures courses, training programmes and their delivery and educational development programmes. He joined MOBIE after 25 years in higher education, lecturing and running courses in construction and the built environment, design and architecture, with a passion to excite, motivate and prepare young people for careers in innovative home creation.

Nadina Ali

Nadina Ali is a graphic artist from Marseille, who is currently based in London. She’s passionate about social justice and representation, and uses bold and colourful typography to address those topics in a way that is easy to engage with for a wider range of people.



The Northern School of Art Masterclass with Pentland Brands x Kickers

Ngoni Chikwenengere

Ngoni Chikwenengere is a fashion designer and founder of the sustainable brand We Are KIN. A University of Northampton graduate, she was also listed on Forbes 30 Under 30, and her work is often featured in fashion publications. Passionate about ethical living, she creates content on climate change, growing her own food and fashion and sustainability, and inspiring others through her insights.

Nyasha Daley

Nyasha Daley is an artist whose creative practices include poetry/spoken word and film production. She is highly passionate and deeply curious about people and prose, centred on the exploration of identity and democratisation of knowledge. She and her husband, a music producer and videographer, own two businesses, a marketing consultancy and a not-for-profit arts production organisation. They are also co-CEOs of a youth organisation focused on preventing knife crime, anti-social behaviour and gang violence.

Ocean Generation

Dr Gemma Connell

Ocean Generation is a UK charity and an ocean-focused NGO which is on a mission to empower an inclusive global movement to tackle ocean threats through science and storytelling. No fear-mongering, no big data, no oversimplifications. They translate complex ocean science into engaging content and practical actions.

Paye

The market-leading stonework and restoration contractor in London and the south east and holders of a Royal Warrant, Paye have decades of experience in the market, both as principal contractor and sub-contractor. Every type of project is approached with a wealth of experience, a passion for stonework and a proven track record of delivering on time and on budget.

Pentland Brands x Kickers

Laura Bromley, Moesha Francis, Katie Greenyer, Layla Hazelden, Leah Holmes, Molly McGarry, Abbie Williams

Pentland Brands is the name behind some of the world's best sports, outdoor and lifestyle brands, including Speedo, Berghaus and Ellesse. It's also the UK licensee for Kickers. Pentland Brands has been supporting up-and-coming design talent through its Design Pool programme for more than 20 years.

Price & Myers

Tim Lucas

Price & Myers is a firm of creative structural and civil engineers. They design all kinds of buildings and also work on projects like bridges and sculptures. Price & Myers often work with architects and sometimes artists and other designers. They have about 160 people and are mainly based in London, with smaller offices in Oxford, Nottingham and Manchester.

“Future creative directors, editors, engineers, activists and more ... you have the power to be whatever you want to be. The National Saturday Club has put you on a new trajectory, one that delivers endless opportunity.”

Katie Greenyer, Creative Director, Pentland Brands

PriestmanGoode

Kirsty Dias, Guy Genney, Oscar Marchal, Hanna Sparks, Poppy Wilkins

PriestmanGoode is an employee-owned, multidisciplinary design consultancy. Their purpose lies in designing a better, more sustainable future. People-centric to the core, they have been improving and transforming everyday experiences for people around the world for over 30 years. Known as one of the leading consultancies in transport, product and experience design, their international team of over 70 designers includes some of the world's most talented designers in their field.

Raybel Charters × Outdoor Studios CIC × Margate Crab Museum

**Raybel Charters: Chris Foster, Faye Thorley
Outdoor Studios: Martin Brockman
Margate Crab Museum: Ned Suesat-Williams**

Raybel Charters is a maritime heritage social enterprise born from a desire to inspire and create change towards a climate-conscious and socially just trade system. Their work is based around themes of water, trade, transport, nature, heritage and people, working on a global and a local scale. Their home is the Thames Estuary, from central London to the coast of Kent – but from here they extend out, from estuary to ocean, from creek to canal.

Richard Pengelley, Directors Charitable Foundation

Richard is an award-winning director. He cut his teeth directing music documentaries before moving into music videos, commercials, short films and scripted television. Credits include four seasons of the scripted comedy *Crackanory*, the Sam Simmons series *Wallstud*, the taster episode of *Murder In Successville* and *The Rug* with executive producer Sharon Horgan.

Royal Opera House

Ellen Dawson, Nicole Richardson, Sarah Waterman

The Royal Opera House is home to the Royal Opera, the Royal Ballet and their orchestra. The technical, production and costume department (TPC) work alongside these companies in creating incredible performances. It encompasses all the teams that work on stage including lighting and stage management, the teams that build the scenery and props and those that create the amazing costumes, wigs and make-up that adorn the performers.

Royal Society of Arts

Daisy Carter, Mario Ihieme, Anna Markland, Aoife O'Doherty, Celestin Okoroji, Alessandra Tombazzi

The RSA (royal society for the encouragement of arts, manufacture and commerce) is where world-leading ideas are turned into world-changing actions. Their vision is a world where everyone can fulfil their potential and contribute to more resilient, rebalanced and regenerative futures. The RSA has been at the forefront of significant social impact for over 260 years. Their proven change process, rigorous research, innovative ideas platforms and unique global network of changemakers work collectively to enable people, places and the planet to flourish in harmony.

Sadie Williams × the Design Museum

Avni Patel, Sadie Williams

The Design Museum recognises that the design world isn't as visibly diverse as it should be and wants to make a positive change. Each year, the Ardagh Young Creatives programme welcomes a group of young people aged 14 to 16 based in London from under-represented groups to explore all aspects of design and how it can be used to help solve issues.



Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery Masterclass with Standfast & Barracks

Sam Larter

Sam Larter is an artist from Yorkshire and works from her studio in the East Yorkshire countryside. She is a maker of things. Her work is made from everyday ubiquitous materials that are plentiful and easily found. The forms and images produced are abstract and influenced by noticing shapes and structures that are present to us every day, but may be considered unimportant, unwanted, mediocre or bland. Noticing the details in the daily clutter of life.

Sara Hardy

Sara Hardy is a multi award-winning documentary maker of 28 years. Films she has directed have won BAFTA, RTS and WFTV awards. She is best known for directing intimate self-shot observational documentaries about extremely challenging and sensitive subject matters, often involving gaining and maintaining access to institutions that have not allowed documentary crews in before. Most recently she directed a feature-length documentary for BBC Storyville, *Deborah James: Bowelbabe In Her Own Words*.

Simple Works

Rhiannon Brown, Chinny Emodi, Eliza Reed

Simple Works was founded with a shared desire to focus on the communities we build and work for, and the environment we live in. They use their technical excellence and know-how for good, to create equitable spaces enhancing the lives of people and society. They specifically target projects which are accessible and can benefit the many, not just the few.

Standfast & Barracks

Emily Charlesworth, Elizabeth Forbes, Dyan Harrison, Elizabeth Lucas, Tiana McInerney, Rebecca Pye, Rosie Woollard

Established in 1924 and based in the heart of Lancaster, Standfast & Barracks are renowned for their impressive heritage of textile printing. For 100 years, design, creativity and innovation have been at the centre of their product development, with expertise in both conventional printing techniques and groundbreaking digital inkjet technology, making them market leaders in fabric printing.

Studioshaw

Jack Moloney, Dilshod Perkins, Harry Thomson

Studioshaw is a small architecture practice known for its big ideas and for delivering complex projects. Their mission is to be engaging, energetic and environmentally sensitive architects by being knowledgeable, researched and visionary partners for progressive organisations. They have a focus on low-energy, sustainable development, and call this approach "RE:LOW". They apply this to all their projects, helping to minimise their impact on the planet.

Tom Ryalls

Tom is a writer and theatre maker who focuses on changing who gets to imagine the future. Their work mainly sits at the intersection of disability, class and camp and is often written in collaboration with other creatives. Currently they are curating a new archive of disabled dramaturgy for the Royal Court Theatre and preparing to publish their first book on neurodivergent creativity.



City & Guilds of London Art School Masterclass with Windsor Castle

Tiarnan O'Sullivan, Directors Charitable Foundation

Tiarnan O'Sullivan is a writer/director for film and television, with credits across feature films, TV episodes, short films and live comedy events.

Transport for Greater Manchester

Sam Knight, Sam Li

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is the public body responsible for coordinating transport services in Greater Manchester and delivering the Bee Network. The Bee Network is Greater Manchester's vision for a fully integrated, London-style transport system, joining together buses, trams, walking, wheeling and cycling with rail, to be incorporated by 2030.

V&A x Charlie Humble-Thomas

Virginia Gallego, Charlie Humble-Thomas, Catherine Nicholson, Marcus Woolf

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art and design, housing a permanent collection of over 2.8 million objects, books and archives that span over 5,000 years of human creativity. The Young Peoples programme at V&A South Kensington in London builds young people's creative skills for now and the future, and fosters curiosity and personal agency using the V&A and its collections. They aim to raise youth voice across the museum, making space and opportunities for all young people.

Virgile + Partners

Nora Bilc, Ewald Damon, Alik Kylika

Virgile & Partners is a luxury retail and hospitality design specialist within the Imagination Group. Imagination is an experience design company headquartered in London, with 13 studios worldwide. Founded over 50 years ago on a principle of Independent Creativity, they bring together diverse groups of strategic, creative and practical people to find creative and inspired answers to client challenges. They remain independent to this day.

Wayne Hart

Wayne Hart is an award-winning letter carver, typographer, sculptor and glass engraver. He works in multiple materials including stone, wood, glass and metal. Notable works have included the memorials to C. S. Lewis and Sir John Gielgud for Westminster Abbey and the memorial to Edith Cavell for Norwich Cathedral.

Windsor Castle

Eric Appen, Holly Bevan, Lizzie Keay, Catherine Kennerell, Iain Stephens, Richard Thompson, David Weigh, Gary Wilson

The Master of the Household's Department handles everything involved in official and private entertaining across all the Royal residences. Their remit spans hospitality, catering and housekeeping arrangements. As such, their diverse team includes everyone from florists and upholsterers to specialist craftspeople and caterers.





**You are the future of creativity
across the world. And if I'm going
and leave you with one thought
encourage you to take with you
imagination is full of wild
creativity
they will wreak havoc on the world**

Tom Ryalls, speaking at the Graduation Ceremonies

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Cultural partners

An extensive network of prestigious cultural institutions works alongside the National Saturday Club, opening their doors and providing young people with access to invaluable experiences and unique opportunities such as exhibition visits, workshops and bespoke tours

“Theatre is a multi-disciplinary art form and will need your skills as designers, writers, coders, engineers, technicians, craftspeople, choreographers and archivists as well as actors and directors. We look forward to discovering the future theatre you’ll shape.”

National Theatre, Young People’s Programme

Cultural partners have included:

Autograph
Barbican Centre
Derby Museum & Art Gallery
Design Museum
English National Ballet
Hayward Gallery
IKON Gallery
London Transport Museum
London Zoo
Makerversity
Manchester Museum
MIMA
National Theatre
Nottingham Contemporary
Science Museum
Somerset House
Tate Britain
The Courtauld Gallery
The Photographers’ Gallery
Truro Arts Company
Victoria and Albert Museum
Whitechapel Gallery

Thank you

The National Saturday Club programme is made possible by the commitment of the **universities, colleges** and **cultural institutions** that fund and deliver the weekly Saturday Clubs across the UK.

We extend our gratitude to the **tutors** and **coordinators** whose energy, commitment and expertise have inspired all Saturday Club members throughout 2023–24. We also thank the **student assistants** who support the teaching at the Clubs.

This year, 175 **creative practitioners** and **industry professionals** generously gave their time to lead inspirational Masterclasses. We are extremely grateful to them all.

A special thank you to our **cultural partners** for supporting the programme: Autograph, Barbican Centre, Design Museum, Hayward Gallery, London Transport Museum, London Zoo, Makerversity, National Theatre, Nottingham Contemporary, Science Museum, Somerset House, Tate Britain, The Courtauld Gallery, The Photographers' Gallery, Victoria and Albert Museum, Whitechapel Gallery.

Major support for the National Saturday Club programme is from public funding by the **Department for Education** and the **National Lottery** through **Arts Council England**, as well as by the **UK Government** through the **Department for Culture, Media and Sport**.

Thank you to our Club subject partners the **British Fashion Council**, the **British Film Institute (BFI)**, the **Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust** and the **Clore Duffield Foundation**.

Thanks also goes to our industry supporters **Howdens Joinery** and **Pentland Brands**, and to **Bloomsbury Visual Arts** for kindly donating books for the Club tutors.

We are delighted to continue our long-term partnership with **Cass Art**, who generously donate a percentage of profits from their Viridian Card to the National Saturday Club.

We're incredibly grateful for the long-term support and expertise of creative studios **Dallas–Pierce–Quintero**, **Imagination**, **Pentagram** and **Studio Quercus**.

Every year, the National Saturday Club brings together a diverse and talented national network of partners to educate and inspire young people nationwide. It simply would not be possible to deliver the programme without their support

Thanks also to our Summer Show venue partner **Somerset House** for their longstanding support. As well as to our Graduation Ceremony venue **Institution of Engineering and Technology** and **guest speakers**: Robin Belfield, Nyasha Daley, Tom Ryalls and Sim Scavazza.

A special mention to our founders, **Sir John Sorrell CBE** and **Lady Sorrell CBE**, for their continued guidance, vision and expertise.

Thanks go to Sir Nigel Carrington, Chair of the **Board of Trustees**, and Board members: Katie Greenyer, Russell Lloyd, Professor Nona McDuff OBE, Anne Morrison, Sim Scavazza, Frances Sorrell CBE, Sir John Sorrell CBE, Philip Watkins. Thank you also to the **Advisory Board**: Caroline Hargrove CBE FREng, Dr David Parker, Patrick Reid, Judith Rosser–Davies, Cecilia Weckström, David Weil, Professor Julius Weinberg.

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