

PRESS RELEASE & INVITATION

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00HRS, FRIDAY 7 APRIL 2017

Oakfield students show their creativity as they build outdoor learning space and shelter

Event: **Hull school students create new building for their allotment**
Venue: **Portobello Street Allotments, Portobello Street, Hull. HU9 3NU**
Date: **Friday 7 April 2017**
Time: **10am-12pm**

Members of the press are invited to cover the official launch of **Made in Oakfield**, an innovative project that has seen children with complex social, emotional and mental health needs creating a an outdoor learning space and shelter for when they are working on their allotment in Portobello Street, east Hull.

The young people, aged between 11 and 16, attend the nearby Oakfield Residential School, which caters for students who have not managed in mainstream education and require a specialist educational provision in order for them to access the National Curriculum and reach their full academic potential.

The Made in Oakfield project, which is funded as part of Hull 2017's **No Limits** learning programme, has seen young people design a shelter against poor weather when working on their allotment. Working together, they have come up with the design and for some it is the first time they have a dedicated space of their own.

The Oakland students built the allotment den over five intensive days, working alongside **MATT+FIONA**, a collaborative venture between architect Matthew Springett and educator Fiona MacDonald, who work together on architectural-based education initiatives. Their projects offer unique, hands-on, practical education programmes for children and young adults.

Matthew Springett and Fiona MacDonald, comment: "We believe enabling young people to design and then build their own spaces empowers them to take ownership of their built environment. It has been a privilege to work with such an inspired and dedicated group of individuals at the school: The project accelerated from the seed of an idea to completion within two months, enabling them to realise the transformation of this unique and special place. We know it will continue to be well used and that the experience will be a springboard board for their future endeavours."

Rachel Davies, Headteacher at Oakfield Residential School, said: "This exciting project has been a very positive experience for the students of the school. It has been an excellent opportunity for staff and students to work together to create something extraordinary. The school community are proud to be part of this project and will continue to embrace all of the exciting opportunities that Hull's City of Culture has to offer."

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, added: "The Made in Oakfield project is another great example of how young people across the city are making the most of Hull's City of Culture year. It sees local students working together, solving problems and being creative. The No Limits programme continues to bring together schools, cultural partners and the city's young people to create once-in-a-generation experiences as part of Hull 2017."

MEDIA ATTENDANCE & INFORMATION

- Media wishing to attend the launch of Made in Hull at 10am on Friday 7 April, or seeking more information, should contact: fiona@mattandfiona.org.uk.
- For additional information, visit <http://mattandfiona.org>.
- Follow the children's progress during the week on Facebook @MattAndFionaBUILD and on Instagram @matt_and_fiona

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Matt+Fiona

MATT+FIONA is a collaborative venture between architect Matthew Springett and educator Fiona MacDonald, built on a long history of working together on architectural education initiatives. Through their collaboration they offer unique, hands-on education programmes for children and young adults inspired by place – resulting in full scale installations and buildings.

About Oakfield School

Oakfield Residential School is situated in East Hull. It caters for students who have not managed in mainstream education and require a specialist educational provision to meet their complex social, emotional and mental health needs in order for them to access the National Curriculum and reach their full academic potential. A significant number of the students who attend the school are 'Looked After' by social care. The school aims to give all students opportunities and life experiences as well as provide them with an academic and vocational curriculum which will enable them to succeed as adults. The Residential Provision has been rated Outstanding by OFSTED, the school is graded as Good.

Hull City of Culture 2017

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England. Divided into four seasons, starting with Made in Hull, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull 2017 programme and is an independent organisation with charitable status. It has raised £32 million, with over 70 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making the National Lottery the largest single funding body of Hull 2017.

Key contributions are coming from: **Host City** – Hull City Council; **Principal Partners** - Arts Council England, BBC, Big Lottery Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, KCOM, KWL, Spirit of 2012, Yorkshire Water and the University of Hull; **Major Partners** –Associated British Ports, Arco, BP, the British Council, British Film Institute, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group.

68 per cent of the funding is dedicated to public facing activities, including the widest range of cultural events in every corner of the city, with a further 11 per cent for legacy and contingency. More than £5 million is being invested in volunteering, learning and community engagement. £1.6 million is being invested to ensure a legacy after 2017. This includes capacity building, such as supporting existing events so they can grow, staging curtain-raiser events, developing future programming for after 2017 and building a new platform to support a unified ticketing system for the city.

Hull 2017's International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull). These relationships are reflected in a number of events throughout the year.

For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk. Follow us on Twitter @2017Hull Instagram @2017hull Facebook HullCityofCulture