



## New Craft and Numeracy Project launches in Dundee Schools

An ambitious new teacher development project that uses craft-based approaches to numeracy kicks off this month in Dundee, thanks to support from Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Teacher Development Fund.



*MAKE with the Knit Shop. Photo credit Neil Hanna*

**MAKE with the Knit Shop** is a two-year CLPL (Career Long Professional Learning) project designed to embed craft approaches in schools. Together with partners Knit Shop and Dundee Creative Learning Network, the project will explore the value and potential of teaching craft across the curriculum and equip teachers with the skills, knowledge, confidence and experience, to provide quality education and impactful learning through the arts.

Working with six primary schools in Dundee (Ancrum Road, Claypotts Castle, Fintry, Rosebank, St Mary's and Downfield) it will introduce teachers and pupils in P5 and P6 to new craft-based approaches to developing numeracy skills using the Dundee Progression Pathways for Numeracy. For example, measuring the length of a seam, or calculating the number of stitches in a row of knitting, will be used to consolidate a pupil's understanding of adding and subtracting.

Over the two year period, teachers will attend a residency at the Knit Shop which is an independent knit factory in Dundee, owned by award-winning Scottish textile and product designer Donna Wilson. They will also have the opportunity to visit the studios of three independent textile makers (each working with a different textile expertise), be able to involve their classes in an introductory workshop, and have access to practical guides, films, and resource packs to encourage exploration of traditional and contemporary craft processes. These will include an introduction to textile practice and approaches to decolonising its history in Dundee, an understanding of materials and their connection to place and to the natural world, and an understanding of the circular economy, sustainability and textiles.

MAKE with the Knit Shop is a partnership between MAKE, Knit Shop and Dundee Creative Learning Network, led by Craft Scotland and Panel. It is funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Teacher Development Fund, with additional support from Creative Scotland as part of their targeted funding to strengthen the craft sector in Scotland.



*MAKE with the Knit Shop. Photo credit Neil Hanna*

**Stewart Hunter, Children, Families and Communities Convener, Dundee City Council** said: *“MAKE with the Knit Shop is a great initiative project and I’m delighted to see it coming to Dundee. This project offers a creative way for both teachers and our young people to develop their numeracy skills through the world of textiles. Dundee has a strong historical connection to textiles and it’s great that this legacy is continuing today in some of our schools.”*

**Michael Marra MSP for North East Scotland**, who will host the MAKE team at the Scottish Parliament next month, where they will meet MSPs to discuss the long-term value of teaching craft in schools and further education, said:

*“I’ve been absolutely delighted to work with the MAKE team as they prepare for an exhibition of their work in The Scottish Parliament. We know that learning through crafts can help develop problem solving skills, teamworking and communication skills. I am delighted to see such an ambitious, forward thinking partnership launching in Dundee. By equipping teachers with the skills, knowledge, confidence and experience to deliver craft-based teaching, we can support the teachers’ personal development and see the benefits in our young people.”*

**Catriona Duffy and Lucy McEachan, founders of MAKE** said: *“There is growing evidence and appreciation that craft and making contribute to priorities within Scotland’s national education policy. Craft provides a unique bridge between Expressive Arts and Technologies curriculums and can unlock learning – particularly promoting creativity and attainment within science and numeracy disciplines. This project is another step in our aim to ensure that every young person in Scotland is given the opportunity to learn through craft and to develop material skills and we are delighted that Paul Hamlyn Foundation is supporting us in our work.”*

**Irene Kernan, Director Craft Scotland** which has been working in partnership with MAKE since 2019, said: *“The value of learning about and putting craft skills into practice is well-proven. The physical act of making helps children develop fine motor skills and manual dexterity and helps to improve hand eye coordination. Moving through the different stages of making, from concept and design to finished product is a valuable and enjoyable means of enabling children to develop problem-solving and decision-making skills which are fundamental life skills.”*

**Donna Wilson, Founder of the Knit Shop** said:

*“As the founder of the Knit Shop I am truly excited to be a part of the MAKE Manifesto. The idea of teaching crafting in schools is extremely close to my heart, especially since I have two children currently in school. It’s vital that we don’t forget the craft skills passed down over generations. These skills are more than just making things; they’re about creativity, patience, critical thinking and connecting with our heritage. By supporting this manifesto, we are ensuring that valuable craft traditions continue to thrive, as well as introducing skills that will be carried on through into everyday life beyond school.”*

**Moira Sinclair, Chief Executive at Paul Hamlyn Foundation** said: *“Learning through the arts can engage and inspire young people, support key educational outcomes and develop skills that prepare them for the next phase of their lives. For many young people, particularly those experiencing inequity and disadvantage, the only opportunity to gain access to arts education is at school. That’s why we are delighted with the eight partnerships that have received a grant from our Teacher Development Fund Round 6. We were impressed by the quality of applications and look forward to seeing how the projects equip teachers with the skills and confidence needed to provide quality and impactful education and learning through the arts.”*

**- Ends -**

All media enquiries please contact Emma Henderson 07977134614  
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A selection of **hi-res photos** is available to [download here](#). All photos are credit Neil Hanna.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

**MAKE** is a manifesto for craft in Scotland. It is guided by curatorial practice Panel, with an advisory group of makers based in Scotland. MAKE is drawn from the aspirations, ambitions and concerns of Scotland's many-sided craft community and is here to positively influence the perception of craft in Scotland and do so from the 'ground-up'.

MAKE is committed to being clear, useful and accessible to all, sharing and linking to other resources, agencies, bodies and institutions, lobbying, influencing and advocating. MAKE represents an independent space and aims to develop useful resources and case studies.

The campaign's ambition is to ensure that every young person is given the opportunity to learn through craft and to develop material skills. Through this work, MAKE proposes the long-term value of teaching craft and making skills from early years through to further education and advocates for the inclusion of craft within Scotland's education curriculum.

MAKE is currently guided by [Panel](#), an independent curatorial practice led by Catriona Duffy and Lucy McEachan. Based in Glasgow, Panel promotes design and craft in relation to particular histories, archives and collections through exhibitions, events and cultural projects.

[www.makemanifesto.com](http://www.makemanifesto.com) #CraftUnlocksLearning #MAKEWithTheKnitShop  
#CraftEducation

## Knit Shop

Knit Shop based in Dundee offers a range of on-site design, knit and finishing services. Its core team, led by award-winning Scottish textile and product designer Donna Wilson, is committed to the revival of the Scottish textile industry and brings together years of accumulated knowledge and expertise. Their mission is to share and nurture skills, create opportunities for employment, and encourage creativity and innovation within the sector. Education and the development of skills are at the heart of Knit Shop and they are committed to developing partnerships with local colleges and universities, enabling their students to design and manufacture their own textile products, gain practical industry experience and equip them with skills to start their own businesses.

[www.knitshopscotland.com](http://www.knitshopscotland.com), instagram @knitshopscotland

**Paul Hamlyn Foundation** (PHF) was established by Paul Hamlyn in 1987. He died in 2001 and left most of his estate to the Foundation, creating one of the largest independent grant-making foundations in the UK. PHF use their resources to support social change, working towards a just and equitable society in which everyone,

especially young people, can realise their full potential and enjoy fulfilling and creative lives.

[www.phf.org.uk](http://www.phf.org.uk) @phf\_uk #PHFTDF

**Craft Scotland** is the national development agency supporting makers and promoting craft. Craft Scotland puts makers at the heart of all it does, championing diverse and high-quality contemporary craft. Craft Scotland helps people learn about, appreciate and buy craft, promoting the contribution of craft to Scotland's cultural, economic and social well-being.

[www.craftscotland.org](http://www.craftscotland.org)

**Creative Scotland** is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland distributing funding provided by the Scottish Government and The National Lottery. Further information at [creativescotland.com](http://creativescotland.com). Follow Creative Scotland on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Learn more about the value of art and creativity in Scotland and join in at [www.ourcreativevoice.scot](http://www.ourcreativevoice.scot).

**Craft**  
SCOTLAND

*Panel*

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