

Art students given masterclass in glass

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A WORKSHOP has shown GCSE students how to make their own unique piece of glasswork.

The event held at Ysgol Y Grango in Rhos, has helped boost their portfolio scores, resulting in higher overall grades.

A group of 32 Year 10 and 11 students, who are studying either Art or 3D Art GCSE, took part in the workshop which was led by local glass artist, Wendi Trasmundi.

The students created A5 size panels, tailoring their designs to the theme of their project work.

They used firing glass enamels in different colours to create their designs and learnt to use cutting pliers to cut the glass, layering pieces on top of each other to 'fuse' them together into one piece. Wendi also demonstrated how to cut strips from copper sheets to fuse between the layers as another design element.

At the end of the session each student had produced a piece of work to contribute to their GCSE portfolio. Some of the designs featured buildings, car logos, and a Florida scene.

Once completed, Wendi took the work back to her studio to be fired in her kiln at a temperature of 800 degrees. The students received their finished pieces the following week.

Most of the students had little or no knowledge about glasswork prior to the workshop but questionnaire feedback showed that most felt very confident in using glass as a medium after the workshop, and that it had encouraged them to try using different materials in the future.

Sue Jones, Head of Art and Design Technology Faculty at Ysgol Y Grango said: "The workshop has given our students a fantastic opportunity to learn about this creative art form, and gain hands on experience.

"The year 11 students'



A group of students working on their glasswork designs.



One of the pieces of glass artwork.

portfolios have already been marked and moderated and the moderator from WJEC commented that she was very impressed with the use of different materials

throughout the portfolios of these particular students. The inclusion of other materials has also improved grades for the majority of the group."