

Textbook: A call for teachers

Introduction

School is the place that most of us begin to learn about the world and our place in it beyond the family. We all have fond memories of moments in school where we connected with something new for the first time. The world changed in 2020. The arrival of the pandemic has encouraged deeper reflection on how our societies work. Some of us are seeking a return to normal, whilst others have reset their priorities; still others are just trying to keep going.

During this time, teachers have continued to serve our schools and children. This has included trying to blend learning in the digital and physical worlds, supporting children through uncertainty, addressing the symptoms of poverty, and making decisions about how to keep their school community well.

Invitation

Heart of Glass invites 10 teachers from across England to work with Sarah Bailey to create a pamphlet entitled 'Textbook'. Textbook will create an alternative starting point for schools in the wake of the pandemic. For 'Textbook' she will act as the Learner in Residence and hold a space for teachers to reflect. She has worked with schools and other social contexts for children and young people for 15 years. She will combine her skills as a writer and facilitator to realise the final text.

Teachers who take part in 'Textbook' will explore fundamental questions about schools. We want to amplify the voice of teachers, and explore their views on what their institutional role should be in society's education of our children. We'll reflect on their most powerful experiences of learning, uncover the precious parts of teaching that they want to safeguard, and explore their hopes for the schools and learners of the future. Ultimately, we aim to create a spirit of optimism about the potential for schools, based on the wisdom of teachers.

The pamphlet will be central to the future programme developed between artists and schools at The Heart of Glass. Through enquiry led projects such as The School for Invisible Urbanists, a collaboration between Andy Field and year 5 pupils from Broad Oak Community Primary School in St Helens exploring children's capacity to make change happen in the world, Heart of Glass seeks to work with artists in collaboration with children and young people, and their allies and advocates to explore young people's experiences of growing up in the world today and what could tomorrow look like if truly designed by us all.

Involvement

- Each participant will receive a £200 bursary and some basic materials for the programme
- Participants will need to be able to commit to a minimum of three two-hour exchanges between now and March 2021. These might be via phone call, video or letter according to group preference. Some will take place individually and others collectively.
- We are inviting teachers to speak for themselves on this occasion, rather than on behalf of their school.



We will be making the selection of the final ten teachers based on the following criteria:

- A range of teaching experiences: from newly qualified teachers to those in leadership positions
- Representation across different settings: Early Years, Primary, Secondary, Special, and Alternative Provision
- A diverse range of aspirations for the future of schools
- An active response to the inequalities that exist in the education sector. We know that some people face discrimination in terms of access to teaching and experiences within the profession. We will use the principle of equity in our shortlisting of applications from teachers who experience racism; identify with coming from a disadvantaged background; are disabled; and/or who experience homophobia or transphobia.

In terms of access, we understand that teachers will be experiencing shifting pressures and priorities over the coming months, and scheduling will be as flexible as possible. We hope that the creation of Textbook will create a positive space for reflection, and potentially some peer support. Please communicate with us about your access requirements, however you define access. You can send an email to textbook@heartofglass.org.uk or call Kate at 07793 674 978.

To Apply: We'd like teachers to tell us why they want to take part using one of the following methods:

Option 1/. Complete this Google form ([click here for link to form](#))

Option 2/. Sending an A4 document (1-2 pages in total) answering the questions below.

Option 3/. Create a video of up to 3 minutes answering the questions below.

Textbook – Application Questions:

- Your name
- Contact email address
- The name of the School you work at
- Number of years you've been in teaching?
- Why do you want to collaborate on the creation of Textbook?
- If it was in your gift, what is the one element of school life that you would safeguard in the future?
- Is there anything that you would like to tell us about yourself and your teaching career?
- What access requirements do you have?
- Do you have any questions about the project?

Send your response to: textbook@heartofglass.org.uk by 9.00am on Monday 14 December.

We will be in touch to confirm the status of your application by 5pm on Wednesday 16 December.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this opportunity further please do get in touch, you can email textbook@heartofglass.org.uk or call Kate at 07793 674 978.