

Highdown School and Sixthform Centre Wins £10,000 with Dulux Smarter Spaces



Highdown School and Sixthform Centre in Emmer Green has beaten off competition from schools across the country to win the annual Dulux Smarter Spaces competition and is set to receive a whopping £10,000 worth of colour and design services to makeover an old technology classroom to create an art and photography studio. As part of their prize, the school also recieved a surprise visit this week from the internationally famous Dulux Dog.

Head of Art, Vicki Coleman, and the photography teacher, Craig Wilson worked with the students to come up with the creative ideas behind their entry. To bring what is currently a dark and dreary room 'back to life' and create an environment that inspires them as they enter, the students have requested a contrast of bright walls and historical frames. The makeover will include a gallery wall to showcase and encourage the brilliant work produced by pupils.

Wexham Road
Slough
Berks
SL2 5DS

T +44 1753 877 224

www.akzonobel.com

Rachel Cave, Head Teacher at Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre said: “winning The Smarter Spaces competition is a fantastic opportunity for Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre. We are thrilled to have topped the vote and thank all those who took time to vote for the Highdown Students’ submission. Also, a big thank you to the judging panel who we hope were inspired by the students’ work.”

“I know that working as a team to bring about the design into real life with Dulux will be an amazing experience. At Highdown we encourage our learners to be creative, innovative and aim high, we feel this art room could aid us in this ambition.”

Matthew Burton, who is now Assistant Head Teacher at Thornhill Community Academy in Dewsbury, which starred in the popular TV show Educating Yorkshire and is ambassador for the campaign, said: “It’s great to hear pupils at Highdown getting excited about which colours and paints to choose for their makeover. In my many years as a teacher, I have witnessed first hand the effects a cared-for classroom or school environment can have on pupils’ wellbeing and grades. By contrast I’ve also seen how neglected spaces can be uninspiring and a challenge to teach in. I really support the concept of learner-led design as I believe children are much more likely to be engaged if they have a bright and colourful space that they’ve had some element of creative control over. I look forward to seeing the finished result!”

Schools had to submit a 300-word entry explaining why they should win the £10,000 transformation and how they would make use of the funding. The final winner was chosen by a panel of judges, including Matthew Burton and education expert, Professor Stephen Heppell.

For further information on Dulux Smarter Spaces please visit www.duluxsmarterspaces.co.uk or call 0333 222 7022.

-ENDS-