

## **CAPE - The Smeaton Partnership**

The CAPE programme at JSCHS is intended to contribute to the development of teaching and learning styles across the curriculum by creating an environment which encourages reflective practice and initiative on the part of pupils and staff.

The initial stages of the 5 year programme are concerned with PATHWAYS, and we take as our focus years 10, 8 and 6, identifying the particular characteristics that distinguish these points in the educational continuum and contribute to the maintenance, enhancement or obstruction of the motivation to learn.

A specific focus on a group of students in year 10, chosen for their particular position in relation to the academic demands of key stage 4, will be accompanied by a broader study of year 8, a year in which the initiatory zeal of year 7 perhaps begins to lose momentum prior to the academic pressures of year 9. The third strand in the study will be provided by year 6, giving us an insight into the way pupils' attitudes and aspirations are informed by the academic pressures of SATS, as well as by broader reflection on their primary experience as they make the transition to secondary education.

Our concern is with a sense of individual and group identity at these three stages of education and work on the theme of SELF - IMAGE should reveal a variety of needs and aspirations, with all the attendant implications for alternative approaches to teaching and learning.

The arts dimension of the projects will initially be media based, with the exploration of avenues of expression and communication being central to the work.

Whilst recognising the intrinsic educational value of arts activities in all their forms, we also recognise a need for these to be carefully matched to the broader aim of enhancing teaching and learning across the curriculum and to arise naturally from the issues raised in our initial CAPE activities. It is also important that colleagues do not, at an early stage, see the ARTS in Creative Arts Partnership as excluding a wider concept of creativity.

John Haggett

June 1998