

How the Arts Society Chiswick has Supported the Koestler Awards in Greater London



'Winter Outside My Window', HM Young Offender Institution Feltham, Under 25s Special Award for Painting

The Arts Society Chiswick Award gives recognition and pride to entrants from HM Young Offender Institution Feltham. Your support means we can continue providing feedback, certificates and encouragement to young people in HMYOI Feltham and in secure settings across Greater London. Thank you for making this possible.



'Inside the Droste Effect', HM Young Offender
Institution Feltham, Arts Society Chiswick Gold
Award for Drawing

"Lockdown is not a punishment but an opportunity. An opportunity to find out what one is capable of, to reach inside and find that spark that allows us to express ourselves in a positive way, either through art, writing and music. The arts are a strong tonic to help our mental health - we all need it."

- 2020 Koestler Awards entrant

The Koestler Awards in Greater London

In 2020, we received 857 entries from 433 entrants in secure settings in the Greater London area. These included 64 artworks from 26 young people at HMYOI Feltham. These young people submitted work in 9 artform categories, from painting to song writing, and we are delighted that the 2020 Arts Society Chiswick Award celebrated drawing.

"Creating art gave me meaningful ways to pass the days and still feel like I was growing as a person."

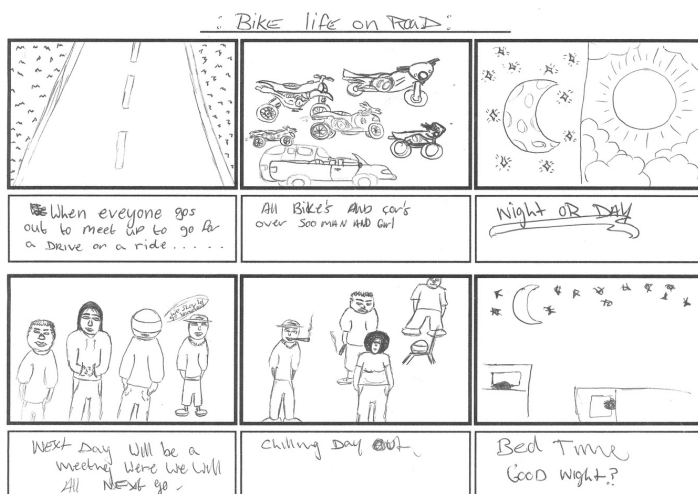
- 2020 Koestler Awards entrant

6 entrants from HMYOI Feltham won Koestler Awards in 2020. 3 Awards included cash prizes, and we awarded £160 in prize money to HMYOI Feltham Award winners, providing validation and practical recognition of achievement. Everyone who entered the Koestler Awards receives a certificate and, despite lockdown restrictions, we were able to provide feedback to over 70% of artworks in 2020.



'Resting',
HM Young Offender Institution Feltham,
Commended Award for Printmaking

Lockdown restrictions have meant sharply reduced access to education and art classes for young people in the criminal justice system. Your support has ensured that some of our youngest entrants at HMYOI Feltham have still had access to purposeful activity and creative learning while living under lockdown. Thanks to you, even more young people across Greater London have been encouraged to enter the Koestler Awards and take part in the arts.



'Bike Life on the Road', HM Young Offender Institution Feltham

"Being creative with words gives me strength. When I find a way to put words into patterns that evoke emotion or tell a story I feel empowered somehow. I have found lots of confidence in myself that I lost for a long time through addiction."

- 2020 Koestler Awards entrant

Entrants from HMYOI Feltham submitted 10 written works to the 2020 Koestler Awards, including poetry and graphic novels. These categories help young people express themselves and put into words their own experiences of lockdown. Our written category judges in 2020 included George the Poet and Shaun Attwood.



'Reverse Forward Reverse',
HM Young Offender Institution Feltham





'Felts', HM Young Offender Institution Feltham, Commended
Award for Drawing

"Entering the Koestler awards during my sentence
has helped me stay out of trouble...it has helped me
focus my mind and given me the confidence to
attempt to publish some of my work."
- 2020 Koestler Awards entrant

In a year that saw people in secure settings face
extraordinary challenges, support from Arts Society
Chiswick gave some of our society's most
marginalised young people a chance to transform
their lives through the arts.

The Arts Society Chiswick is helping to nurture a
lifelong love of the arts for some of our most
underrepresented young people.

Thank you.



'Tree of Diversity', HM Young Offender Institution Feltham, Commended Award for Drawing