

MELISSA BRADFORD - SLYTHERIN

My name is Melissa Bradford and I was part of the slytherin group in this project.

At the start of the year we began work on a Harry Potter themed project titled 'Escape from Azkaban' in English, drama, art, and music. We created story boards in English and drama looking at camera angles, we designed sets in art and we recorded a harry potter track in music. I was picked for my storyboard in English. My plot was the main character escaping by jumping out of a window.

Thanks to Rhys Denham and Charlie Gaskin our group were pleased to win the award for best soundtrack. We used the garage band app on the computers to make our music. The music for each scene helped to create atmosphere so it was important to ensure that it suited the storyline. Recording the sound effects was really good fun because we had the opportunity to go and record splash noises in one of the art classrooms.

Over the three days we were given we thought this was going to be plenty of time but the time flew by so we had to work quickly to ensure we got the project completed. We were pretty stressed at times but we managed to work together to get all of the tasks done in time. There was lots be done not just the music storyboards and sets but we had to make things like costumes, props, backdrops and more.

Everybody in our group worked really well together because they were focused on their part of the project. Everybody would help each other if they were struggling to manage their time or if they were finding it difficult to work the set. There were a few moments when making this project that we got a bit stuck or worried but we had the teachers from the different departments there throughout the day to help us find a solution. Through team support we all got through our tasks to make a successful animation we were all proud of in the end.

We learned a lot in the project too, we learned about camera angles, lighting, communication skills, group work skills, time management and more. We learned how to make our stop motion movies look professional with different editing software and this really helped the confidence of our group. All of the skills we learned in class leading up to this project payed off in our film and we will have this knowledge and skills for life. This project has also opened up the variety of creative careers available in the world that I wasn't aware of.

The experience has been amazing and I hope to be part of more things like this as I move up the school. We also had the pleasure of getting to meet Amelia bennet who is a prop designer who has worked on lots of film sets in both props and set design. Amelia talked to us about her experience as a prop designer and it helped us to consider how different elements all come together to tell a story.

As well as Amelia we got to work with teachers from all the DrEAM departments to help us and give us advice on our filming and editing as well as recording. We were very grateful to have all the staff there as they have been really helpful in helping us to realise our ideas with their different specialist knowledge and experience.

I think I most enjoyed getting to be part of multiple aspects of the project for I got to be included in coming up with the storyline, the costumes, props and I made the visual board of all the things we created in the planning of our animation. I was really grateful to be picked for this and I really enjoyed the experience, thank you.

