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Calling all young artists – North West schools to benefit from new university-backed arts initiative

Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) has become official partner with local arts project dot-art Schools to inspire the region's next generation of Turners and Emins.

The University has partnered with Liverpool-based arts organisation dot-art which runs an inter-school interactive online art competition annually for Year 5 and Year 9 students across Merseyside and Cheshire. The initiative culminates in a prize giving ceremony and exhibition of the winning art work in a cultural venue. It is designed to nurture talent, raise ambition, and take art out of the classroom and into the real world. It is hoped the partnership will extend the reach of the competition and influence more youngsters into taking up art.

LJMU will provide support and resource via staff and student engagement, the use of interns and utilising the premises and world-leading research at Liverpool School of Art and Design, ranked in the Top 40 in the UK for research outputs (REF 2014).

Lucy Byrne, Managing Director of dot-art commented: "We are absolutely delighted to be working with LJMU to increase the reach and impact of the dot-art Schools programme. This long term partnership will mean we can develop and expand the scheme in the Liverpool City Region as well as allowing us to fulfil a long held ambition to extend its reach into Cheshire. As well as helping us reach more children and young people we are really excited about the possibilities for student engagement, internships and longer term expansion."

Professor Nigel Weatherill, Vice Chancellor at LJMU said: "Our partnership with dot-art highlights the importance Liverpool John Moores University places on enabling future generations of talent to benefit from the creativity that Liverpool offers. As a modern civic university, we invest in keeping young people engaged with the arts, inspiring them to consider a creative career path, and encouraging their interest in the cultural community around them."

Schools need to sign up to the programme before Christmas. Find out how by visiting: schools.dot-art.com

