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THE EDTECH PODCAST PRESENTS



## The Hackney Edition

**Episode 4: Alex Flowers, Team Leader, Digital Programmes, Victoria and Albert Museum**

TX: May, 2016

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## THE EDTECH PODCAST - THE HACKNEY EDITION

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### WHAT'S FEATURED IN THIS EPISODE?

- Free resources and workshops available for teachers via the V&A Museum
- Why design and creativity is essential to STEM
- Teaching maths through Islamic Art and Architecture
- The launch of V&A East in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park
- The wearable technology collaboration between St Martin's University and London schools
- Using the coding language 'processing' for visual arts
- Teaching the computing curriculum through computing art from the 1960s to the present day
- 'Crowd management'!

### Tags:

STEM, STEAM, Computing, Design, Islamic Art, V&A East, Inset days, CPD, Teachers resources, wearable technologies, coding, processing, arts, design technology, 21st Century, East London, NASA, new material technology, UX, iterative design, elegance

### Quotes:

**On V&A East:** 'What we don't want to do is just parachute in this giant spaceship of a museum' 'It is a chance for the new V&A to create a museum that fits the 21st century.'

**On East London:** 'East London is where a lot of the interesting creative activity is happening.'

**On collaborating with schools in East London:** 'We are doing research with the local community, with schools, to start building those relationships now.'

**On the curriculum:** 'We look at Maths through Islamic Art and Architecture. We look at computing, but always through the lens of art and design.' 'We can chip into the computing curriculum nicely through our collection of computing art...we've been collecting since the 1960s.'

**Promoting the arts:** 'One of the challenges that we always have is really making sure that arts sticks in the curriculum and it isn't excluded by the STEM concentration that is happening..'

**Challenges for schools:** 'for schools and colleges it can be really difficult to take a class out and to arrange cover and to convince heads

### Reading and resources:

[Alex Flowers](#)

[V and A East](#)

[Victoria and Albert Teachers' Resources](#)

[V and A Islamic Art and Maths Resources](#)

[V and A TES resources page](#)

[Vogue Hackney Wick Centre of Cultural Universe quote](#)

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[Processing](#) - a language for learning how to code within the context of the visual arts

[Central St Martin's wearable technologies collaboration](#)

[Computer art collection](#)

### BACKGROUND TO THE HACKNEY EDITION:

Hackney is a small borough of East London, home to only 246, 000, but carrying one of the highest population densities in the capital. By 2020 Hackney will need an extra set of places equivalent to three new primary schools and two new secondary schools to cope with demand.

Within the borough sits 27, 000 pupils in over 70 schools, nurseries and play centres; the borough recognised 88 spoken languages in the 2011 census and just over a third of respondents to the same census described themselves as White British, with vibrant African, Caribbean, Turkish, Vietnamese, and Australian communities in the mix, alongside those religious communities recognised as Jewish, Muslim or Christian.

To put some context on the educational turn around: In 1999, when an Audit Commission report found that Hackney had presided over the largest fall in GCSE results in the country, the Labour Government intervened, putting Hackney's Local Education Authorities into special measures, and taking direct control of education services away from the council. Thus was borne the humble academy as David Blunkett's intervention led to the creation of the Learning Trust, a bespoke not-for-profit company set up to take on the functions of Hackney's failing LEA and report directly to the Secretary of State for Education. Out of this system came the oft lauded Mossbourne Academy, led by now-head of Ofsted Sir Michael Wilshaw to be considered one of the best schools in the country. And whereas In 2002, Hackney's Key Stage 2 results were the worst in the country, and less than a third of students were achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C, in 2014, that figure was above the national average at 61 per cent, with some schools achieving as high as 91 per cent.

That is to say that well documented for being deprived, things in Hackney are changing: In the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Hackney ranked 2nd in the country. In 2015 Hackney had dropped down to eleventh, indicating that Hackney is becoming less deprived relative to other local authority areas in England. In addition, Hackney has experienced rapid economic growth over the last 15 years. In 2012, London Borough of Hackney hosted 13, 000 firms, a 40% increase from 2004. More crucially, Hackney is well represented in London's current growth industries. Companies in key knowledge industries comprise 55% of Hackney's economy (7,840 firms), 3% more than in the rest of London. When we think about Tech initiatives who have chosen Hackney as their home, the case studies are multiple:

- Here East - the former press and broadcast centre on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park offering 1.2 million sqft of commercial space for London's creative and digital industries, valued at £90m.
  - Tech City - based in Shoreditch, London based tech companies raised \$1.6billion in the first nine months of 2015, with 4808 of those companies based at the Shoreditch silicon roundabout.
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- Emerge Education - Hackney-based edtech start up accelerator and part of the estimated £45bn global valued edtech industry

Yet over a quarter of Hackney's working aged residents are economically inactive.

## **NEXT TIME:**

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- a variety of Edtech start ups based in Hackney
  - a Hackney primary school teacher
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