

Young Artists Celebrated Across England as Art Bytes 2026 Announces Its National Winners



England's budding young artists gathered at eight prestigious cultural venues across the country on 17th and 18th June, as the Art Bytes 2026 programme reached its spectacular conclusion. Among the highlights: Majkl Morava from Lynnfield Primary School in the North East was crowned national primary winner, and Chance Enane from Northampton School for Boys in the East Midlands took the national secondary title.

Art Bytes is a national art and EdTech programme for Year 5 and Year 9 students across all educational settings in England, combining an inter-school art competition judged by professional artists and arts professionals with a bespoke virtual gallery, augmented reality (AR) tools, and in-person Celebration Events at cultural venues in each of England's nine regions. Managed by Liverpool-based social enterprise dot-art, the programme is working with almost 150 schools this year, with over 550 schools having taken part across the past five years and more almost 10,000 students participating since 2022.

This year's events were live streamed, extending the reach of the celebrations to classrooms and families across the country. The reaction to both national winners was captured on video: watch Majkl finding out he has won [here](#), and watch Chance receive the news [here](#).

Independent research by Liverpool Hope University has validated the programme's ability to nurture talent, raise ambition, and develop confidence and cultural capital

among young people. Art Bytes is unique in its democratic approach: while competition winners are selected by a panel of respected arts professionals and a public vote, every participating child's artwork can be viewed online and in augmented reality, ensuring every student is an exhibited artist.

Lucy Byrne, Managing Director of dot-art and Programme Director of Art Bytes, said: "The standard of work this year has been extraordinary. Seeing young people's faces as their names are called out, knowing the journey they have been on, is exactly why we do this. Every child who took part this year should be enormously proud. Art Bytes exists to show them that creativity matters and that their ideas have value."

Majkl's teacher said: "It was such a special moment watching Majkl receive the news that he had become National winner. The video is something I am sure he will treasure forever... Thank you for making this competition happen and for providing our pupils with the opportunities to feel successful as artists."

A parent added: "Art Bytes proves that creativity of kids is limitless and their talent should be nourished... it is performing a valuable role in bringing this out and creating avenues not only for it to be realised but also promoted."

The Celebration Events took place across two days at eight venues:

About Art Bytes

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Art Bytes is developed and managed by dot-art Services CIC, a Liverpool-based not-for-profit social enterprise celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2026. dot-art supports visual artists and champions art as an integral part of everyday life.

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Photos can be [downloaded here](#)