

49%

of school students say that AI has already changed how they learn

Source: Pearson School & College Report 2026

Need to know

A poll of teachers and senior school leaders conducted by the Sutton Trust has found that schools are continuing to face difficult choices with regards to their budgets, despite a boost in overall funding for schools over the past year.

Based on a survey of 1,105 teachers, 71% of senior leaders said they had needed to cut the number of TAs at their schools since last year. 49% stated that they had cut support staff, while 30% confirmed that they had reduced their teacher headcount.

Somewhat worryingly – particularly in light of far-reaching government plans to overhaul standards of inclusive provision in mainstream schools – 43% of senior leaders confirmed that they had made cuts to their SEND support provision.

30% of secondary school leaders meanwhile admitted to making cuts to subject choices at GCSE, and 49% of all school leaders conceded that cuts had been made to their IT equipment inventories.

According to the Sutton Trust's CEO, Nick Harrison, "With ambitious government reforms on the horizon, now is the time to target measures that will rebalance funding towards the pupils and schools that need it most. At some point, we need to decide whether we're serious about education in this country or not."

THE ART FILES... SCULPTURE

Hannah Day explores the connections and contrasts between two artworks sharing similar themes – one older and one contemporary...

Hellenistic sculpture, 'Nike of Samathroce' (circa 190BC)
Bryan Kneale, 'Spine' (2004)

Bryan Kneale, who died last year, was an artist whose work contained a physicality. From the paintings he 'built' using a pallet knife, to his curved bronze and brass creations assembled with interlocking sections (see below), there was often the suggestion of the solidity found in bodies – and with it, the movement of a person.

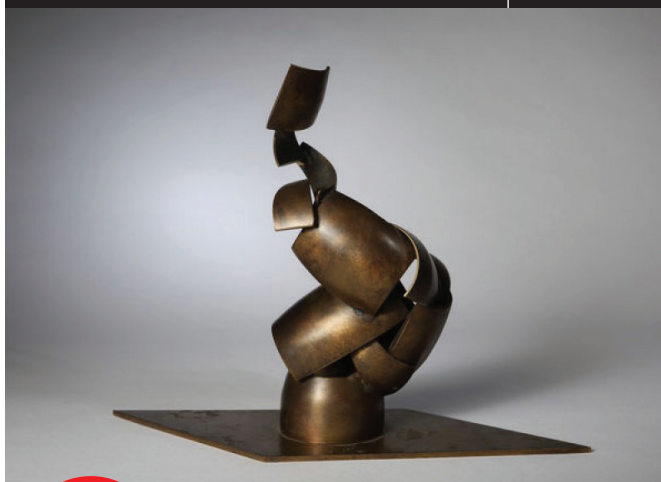
The challenge of rendering something solid, yet suggestive of movement, energy and action remains a fascination of mine. The Greek sculpture 'Nike of Samathrace' (above right), despite its missing elements, is one of the most engaging pieces created in the ancient world. The missing head and arms help us focus on the body, the fabric blowing in the wind and the legs, all of which add to this goddess' dynamic energy.

The naturalness of sculptures in the Hellenistic period makes them appealing to students who plan to explore the tension of stillness and movement. The practical skills

needed to build wings seemingly held effortlessly aloft presents another challenge.

Materials such as card and Modroc allow students to create models that explore the interplay of shapes and works that convey a feeling of movement or forward momentum, in positive and compelling ways – qualities fully in evidence across both of these examples.

Creating abstract forms that suggest walking; coming up with ways of creating wings that retain a graceful lightness; any 3D piece that plays with notions of movement and solidity – that's where the fun, exploration and challenge really lies. Not in pieces that lead inexorably to only one conclusion, but in collections that demonstrate just how many possibilities there really are when it comes to the art of sculpture and model making.



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