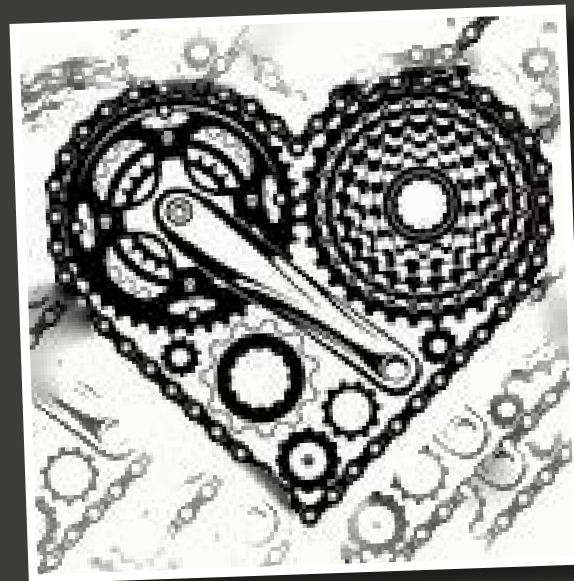


RECLAIMING RELATIONSHIPS

TRANSFORMING MATERIALS FROM A MOTORBIKE SALVAGE YARD TO MAKE A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS SCULPTURE

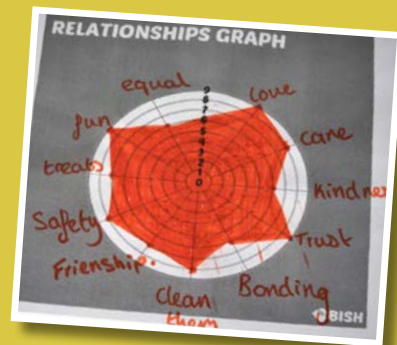
We are a group of 14 high school students who had the opportunity to meet Helen Walbey, managing director of Wales' only motorbike and scooter salvage yard. Together, with support from our Design and Technology teachers, our Art teacher, our head of year and our inclusion officer, we are creating our very own junk-art 'relationships tree'. This is a living sculpture that we hope other young people can add to over the years with their messages of what makes a positive relationship.

THIS IS OUR STORY SO FAR...



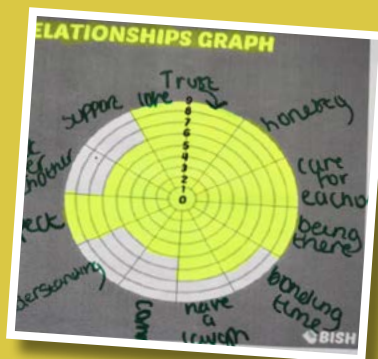
1 What makes a good relationship?

We mind-mapped all the different, positive relationships we enjoyed: boyfriends, girlfriends, friends, family, pets, or special places and objects.



2 Spinning relationship-webs

We picked our favourite relationship (e.g. our dog, or nan). We used this to complete an adapted version of **BISH.COM's relationships graph**. Choosing and ranking things that make our relationship a good one, we joined the dots to make a relationship-web.



3 Inventing micro scrap sculptures

Inspired by junk-artists and a small pile of scrap materials, in 10 minutes we created our own mini-sculptures.

4 Visiting the scrap-yard and sourcing our materials

Notebooks in hand, we took a mini-bus to Helen's scrap-yard. The materials gave us plenty of ideas. We made a list of everything we thought we might need. Tyres, wing mirrors, brakes, coloured cables, and indicator lights were a popular choice.

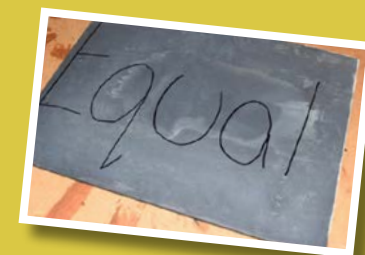
Back in the classroom, inspired by Karen Cusolito's 'Dandelion' (2010) and the words from our relationship-webs, we decided to create a living sculpture that could be personalized and added to by other young people over the years.

5 Drilling, sawing, laser-cutting, bolting

We had a lot of fun learning new skills to make our relationship tyre tree.

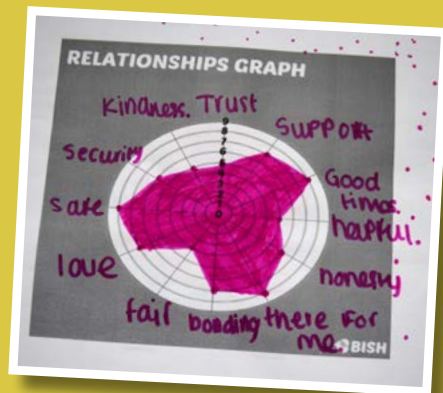
We used the hand drill and lathe to make the wooden base and an angle-grinder and hand-saw to cut the tyres. The laser-cutter helped us score our words onto slate tiles about what makes a positive relationship. We will hang these on our tyre tree using coloured electrical wires.

Along the way we created our R&R project logo from scrap, and a heart made out of chains and wing mirrors. Each mirror reflects someone or something special in our lives.



DIY RELATIONSHIP-WEBS

- 1 Think about what's important to you in a relationship. What do you want, and why?
- 2 Pick a relationship that is special to you. It could be someone you are dating, a friend, a family member or pet. It could be an object (e.g. photograph or cuddly toy) or place (e.g. a den or local hang-out).
- 3 Go to www.bishuk.com and print off a relationship graph. Work your way around the segments and write down some of the things that makes a good relationship. Rank them from 0-9.
- 4 Join the dots to create your personalized relationship web.
- 5 Cut out the final shape and use as a template to make your own decorations. This could be from wood, acrylic, card – whatever materials you can find.
- 6 Is there a tree in your school ground or community centre that you can hang your decorations on? Perhaps you can make your own hanging structure from wire, or sticks? Why not display them on one of the **awareness raising days**.



Before you begin adapting this activity for the children and young people in your setting, read the section on **Safety and Support**.

FEEL-GOOD WORDS

close
equal
being there
memories
trust
care
fun
understanding
bonding
treats
kindness
security
feel good
softy
friendship
feel safe
independence
helpful
having a laugh
looked after
love
support

Our relationship tree

We got special permission to place our living sculpture at the threshold of where the school entrance meets the local community. When we are finished, we hope that you will be able to see the wing mirrors shimmer in the sunlight from far and wide.

Our dream is that the tree will be a symbol of how important our relationships are and can be for us and our community.

Along the way, we shared our story on display boards in the canteen food hall, and on posters in the DTC classroom.

Click **here** for more ideas and resources on how visual art can raise awareness and create change.



OTHER JUNK-ART ARTISTS WHO INSPIRED US

Asim Waqif
Beverley Glover
Chakai Booker
Dilmprizulike
Ivor Davies
Jean Tinguely
Marisa Merz
Tim Noble and Sue Webster
Cornelia Parker
HA Shult
Anne Carrington
Margaret Hogan

DANDILION

(2012)
by Karen Cusolito

"The Dandelion is one of many that has found its way through the cracks of urban sidewalks. It is as gregarious as it is beautiful, designed to survive even in the harshest conditions. It stands as a symbol of strength, hope, and endurance"

Height: 20ft
Footprint: 14ft X 14ft
Weight: 2 tonnes
Composition: Salvage Steel
Engineering: Free standing

