

## Sonic Postcards



Students make their model of the London Eye

Students in Y9 have been recording the sounds around them to create and send “sonic postcards” to other schools around the UK via the internet. Students worked with a number of artists, supported by the Hayward Gallery, to explore and record the sounds on a digital recorder, edit the sounds on a computer and then convert them into MP3 files. These were then loaded onto the Sonic Postcards website ([www.sonicartsnetwork.org](http://www.sonicartsnetwork.org)) for everyone to access. To date, 52 schools are involved, from Cornwall to Aberdeen and the project has won a host of national awards

The 20 year 9 students involved were able to walk down to the Thames, hear Big Ben strike the hour, listen to the tourists gathering around the London Eye and record the endless drone of traffic whizzing by. The project allowed pupils to then create their own MP3 file, not someone else's that they have downloaded onto their iPod. It also made them familiar with the free downloadable audio editing software so they can go on creating long after the Sonic Postcard workshops.

As part of the project students visited the '**Universal Experience: Art, Life, and the Tourist's Eye**' exhibition at the Hayward Gallery. The exhibition uses art to explore ideas about tourism and the students were able to think about how their recordings of tourists might fit into the exhibition. They then built their own 3D models of tourist London, including the London Eye, which they exhibited in an assembly along with their recordings playing in the background. This created a very rich and all encompassing artistic installation which the students really enjoyed creating