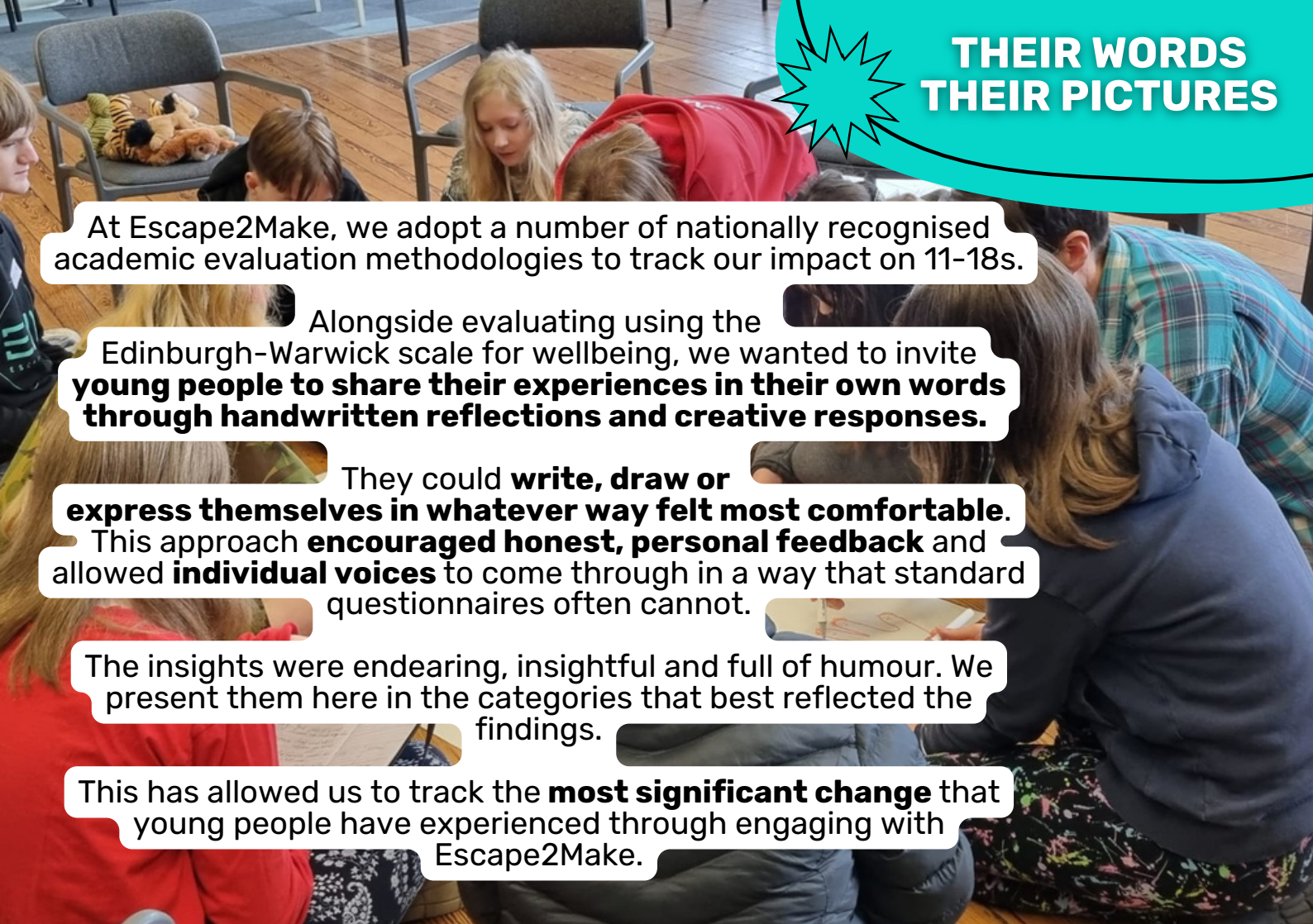


CREATIVE REFLECTIONS 2026



TRACKING THE ***MOST
SIGNIFICANT CHANGE*** FOR
E2M ATTENDEES, CAPTURED
IN THEIR OWN WORDS





THEIR WORDS THEIR PICTURES

At Escape2Make, we adopt a number of nationally recognised academic evaluation methodologies to track our impact on 11-18s.

Alongside evaluating using the Edinburgh-Warwick scale for wellbeing, we wanted to invite **young people to share their experiences in their own words through handwritten reflections and creative responses.**

They could **write, draw or express themselves in whatever way felt most comfortable.**

This approach **encouraged honest, personal feedback** and allowed **individual voices** to come through in a way that standard questionnaires often cannot.

The insights were endearing, insightful and full of humour. We present them here in the categories that best reflected the findings.

This has allowed us to track the **most significant change** that young people have experienced through engaging with Escape2Make.

A photograph of a workshop space. In the foreground, a young man in a plaid shirt and dark vest stands looking at a bookshelf. In the background, another person in a brown jacket is reaching up towards a mobile structure made of poles and platforms. The room is decorated with various items, including a green exit sign, a 'GREEN BELL' sign, and a map. There are bookshelves filled with books and some plants.

**I AM GROWING
HERE**

**I ENJOY
BEING
HERE**

**THIS
ISN'T SIMPLY
SOMETHING
I ATTEND.
I HAVE A PLACE
& A VOICE
WITHIN IT**

We asked the young
people:

***"If you were to tell a
story about your time
at Escape2Make
what would it be?"***

The responses
inspired the
following emerging
themes:

**I CAN
COME
HERE AS
MYSELF**

**I MEET
PEOPLE,
CONNECT &
WANT TO
COME BACK**

**I CAN MAKE, EXPLORE,
LEARN & EXPERIMENT**

CREATIVITY, EXPERIMENTATION & LEARNING

The origami birth of Boble and Boble the dinosaurs in love because their necks are too long to be able to stand without leaning against each other and kissing.



- I don't know where they are now
- I think they probably eloped

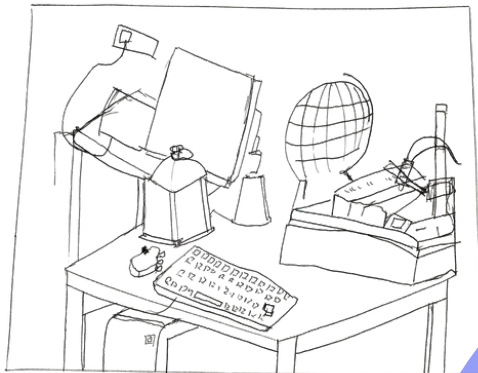
I made a very swagacious bracelet
It was really nice
Very fun

So this one time, I spent .is hour,
on a hard project, and I really
enjoyed it, but I spent
like so much time filing and
polishing it. Looking back, it
looks quite bad but I digress.
So, I checked my status,
and it said I'd done
24,000 steps! ~~Be~~ was all
that filing was worth
it after all.

It has been really fun
and creative and I love
making different ~~things~~ out of
clay ~~and~~ and Learning
new things and looking
at other clay peices
that other people
have made.



It will be very happy and fun of new
thing. I use the 3D print machine alot of times



I CAN MAKE, EXPLORE, LEARN & EXPERIMENT



CONFIDENCE & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



I have been attending escape to make sessions for about 4 months and I enjoy going because it distracts me from my life and it's fun.

I really enjoyed playing D&D it has been fun to relearn all the process. It has made me confident enough to play as a dungeon master when I run a campaign with my friends.

In the campaign the only time I went unconscious was from taking ONE magic mushroom. Not great.



The first time I came here at Made 2 friends and then I started coming twice a week and then I made more friends and I started getting out more and making memories and wanting to come out more and I have something to look forward to twice a week. Also I joined the craft club and since I first came to escape to make, I learned more.



this is a visual of what I look like everytime I am at E2M

my favourite part of E2M was being up on the stage at the cabaret playing guitar in the band (and drums!)

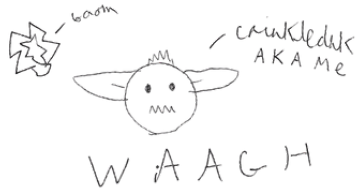


~~My~~ My time with E2M so far has been amazing and this has gave me a lot of cosplayers and it's really fun to be around people.

I AM GROWING HERE



once again a very fun
time great people
charity and campaign
were very fun and
engaging.



I had a very fun time & Playing DnD lol. Everyone
was very nice & I would love to come again

Funny & Enjoyable



JOY, FUN & PLAY!

Once upon a time there was a group of
objective ~~ph~~ psychopaths who were put in charge of
a town and murdering 3 old women. It was
enjoyable. the end.
Disclaimer - this was in dnd. All murder commit by
E2M attendees has nothing to do with the E2M
team and E2M cannot be held responsible in any
way



It IS

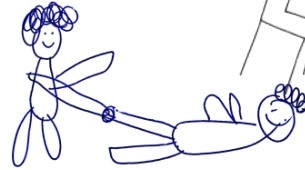


I made an
adoptions, signp

Adopt

skittles
always
have skittles

Quite fun and silly
I like making things as well.



Julian pulling my
leg in drama

I Enjoy It.



It IS
AMAZIN
5 stars -G

the ~~cabaret~~
was fun because it was
~~chaotic~~ ~~good~~
and the ~~Pizza~~!
was good!!!!

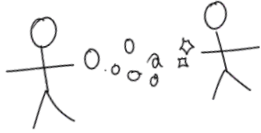


I ENJOY BEING HERE



RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTION

me and xander
Played DND
and mucking around



(Somebody was kindly Groggled me a chair when I was about to wind this :)

I have made so many new friends at E2M through various activities (Music stuff, Escape sessions are so many) and I am so grateful for this. It is so cool meeting so many different people, with so many different talents and it has been absolutely amazing. I've become friends with people and played with so many people I wouldn't have without E2M.



the work people they are cute



I get to see Lexia



Escape two make is the highlight of my week, I love it because it's a great opportunity to make friends and get creative. They offer lots of activities to get involved with and make everyone feel included. Already just in my short amount of time coming here I have made some of the best memories and met so many interesting people and have taught me something new.

**I MEET PEOPLE,
CONNECT & WANT TO
COME BACK**

BELONGING & ACCEPTANCE

E2M is a very creative environment and accepting for all. It is a very fun experience with lots to do and so many people to meet. Everyone there is a unique and very accepting so you can be yourself and express yourself in any way.

I find E2M An amazing place
Its where you can socialize if
you want, meet new people
and express yourself
without any judgement.
It also allows us to
Escape from the stressful
world. My life has been
amazing at E2M. ♥



All around just
very pleasant.



Heard
about
this place from
my friends!

• BEING YOURSELF!!!

• Very calming and quiet.

• Very Nice People ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

It seems welcoming and calm but
also has activities like sewing, drawing,
keychains and more.
People here seem nice and calm.

It was an epic experience that was really engaging
it has set up to really help anyone welcome without
to making making getting the lessons going
like they had waiting for. It has started
but sure. All participants involved are given
friendly and kind.



I ♥ E2M !!!!!

The people here are very warm, kind and understanding
it's my first time at this club and I
already love it here.



my first project
idea ♥

I CAN COME HERE AS MYSELF



BELONGING & ACCEPTANCE

(The following feedback was written by a young person whose first language is Spanish. We have included both their original Spanish words and an English translation. Their contribution is a powerful reminder that belonging, creativity and connection transcend language, and epitomises Escape2Make's commitment to ensuring every young person feels seen, heard and valued)

Las actividades que hacemos aquí son muy divertidas y dinámicas. I love the vibes and el ambiente.
Las personas que ~~están~~ están aquí con nosotros ~~son~~ también son muy majos agradables and kind.
Siempre están preocupados ~~por~~ por nosotros y siempre nos ayudan con lo que necesitamos.
This. ~~actividad~~ actividades me gustan porque la gente no me juzga por ser española, y eso es una cosa que se agradece mucho.



The activities we do here are really fun and dynamic. I love the vibes and the atmosphere. The people who are here with us are also very nice, pleasant and kind. They are always looking out for us and always help us with whatever we need. I like these activities because people don't judge me for being Spanish, and that is something I really appreciate.



I CAN COME HERE AS MYSELF



OWNERSHIP, VOICE & PARTICIPATION



E2M has allowed me to be a part of an organisation that has the community held close to its heart. Youth Board, Conferences, Events; every event helps me learn something new, expand my skills and develop my confidence. They help support all young people and provide a safe space for all youth; No judgement, & just space for young people to value, appreciate & learn Creativity.



**THIS ISN'T SIMPLY
SOMETHING I ATTEND. I HAVE
PLACE AND A VOICE WITHIN IT**



CREATIVE REFLECTIONS

The handwritten and drawn reflections provide a powerful insight into the difference Escape2Make is making in young people's lives.*

Across the responses, there are strong themes of **belonging, friendship, increased confidence, improved wellbeing** and **the freedom to be creative without judgement**.

Many young people describe Escape2Make as somewhere **they feel safe, accepted** and able to be themselves, while others speak about developing **new skills**, trying things they never thought possible and feeling more hopeful about the future.

Together, these reflections bring the evaluation to life, adding **depth and authenticity** to the wider findings and demonstrating **the lasting impact of providing a welcoming, creative community where young people can thrive**

*These themes emerged consistently across **42** handwritten creative reflections collected from unique young people attending Escape2Make sessions. The statements are presented verbatim.