

I am excited to announce a collaboration between the University of Worcester and the Clothiers Company of Worcester Charitable Foundation that you and your students may be interested in.

About the Exhibition

Loose Ends: Art, Identity and Place is an exhibition showcasing the contemporary artwork of students aged 16–18 from schools and colleges across Worcestershire. The exhibition focuses on wool as both a material and a symbol, exploring its connections to heritage, sustainability, and creativity.

Wool in Worcester's Heritage

Wool is embedded in Worcester's history and has played a central role in building English industry. Renowned for its broadcloth, Worcestershire exported wool-based products across Europe and the Middle East, which were admired for their exceptional quality and craftsmanship. The River Severn powered the region's fulling mills, while guilds, such as the Clothiers Company of Worcester, were established to uphold high standards and help local artisans to build a global reputation for excellence.

Exploring Narratives Through Art

Through differencing media, including textiles, mixed media, sculpture, and digital forms, the Clothiers Company of Worcester invites the young artists of Worcester to explore the cultural and environmental stories that interweave the cultural fabric of our collective identity. Their work should bridge past and present, reflecting the ingenuity that made Worcestershire a historic centre of wool production, while also imagining a sustainable future.

Exhibition Details and Prizes

The exhibition will take place at the University of Worcester's Art House for one week in June. An opening night will celebrate all participating artists and their guests with an awards evening sponsored by the Clothiers Company of Worcester. University of Worcester art academics will present the following prizes:

- The Clothiers' Gold Award: £750 awarded to the artist (aged 17–18) whose work demonstrates innovation and skill in addressing the exhibition's theme.

- The Broadcloth Prize: £750 awarded to the artist (aged 16–17) whose work demonstrates innovation and skill in addressing the exhibition’s theme.
- The University of Worcester’s Emerging Artist Prize: Ten prizes of £100 each, awarded to Worcestershire artists recognised as the ones to watch.

How to Get Involved

If you believe your students would be interested in this opportunity, we would be delighted to visit your school or college before the end of term to launch the event. To arrange a visit, please contact me at m.fisher@worc.ac.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'Mark Flisher' and the second is 'Ian JC Smith'.

Dr Mark Flisher

Head of Institute of Arts and Humanities at the University of Worcester.

Ian JC Smith

Chair of Trustees, The Clothiers Company of Worcester Charitable Foundation