

Peter Sansom
Roghorst 86
6708KP Wageningen

0317 411642
p.sansom@maaslandcollege.nl

6 November 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

Twenty years ago I came to the Netherlands from my native England. I was a young artist and was hugely attracted to the Dutch cultural world. This was partly to do with the art history and incredibly strong painting tradition in the Netherlands, but also because of the general cultural environment and appreciation that culture was an important and integrated part of life. In the twenty years that have followed I have continued to work as an artist. However, I have also branched out to share my own passion for art into mainstream secondary education, teaching art and culture in one of the country's many bilingual schools.

Both my great interests, art and education, are operating under great pressure at the current time due to the financial storm that we are having to weather.

The removal of the subject CKV from the higher years of the VWO and HAVO would mark a huge set back to the cultural development of our younger population, not to mention the waste of expertise that has been built up over the last fifteen years or so by those who teach the subject to pupils in our schools.

The cultural world around us is hugely important to our young people as they start to find their way in the world. CKV aims to lift them beyond the superficial world of reality television, Facebook and the main stream, mass market popular culture. It introduces our young people to the cultural significance of theatre, architecture, music, visual art, photography and literature. I speak regularly with people involved in education in other countries, and when I explain the content of this CKV subject that I teach they are amazed by the concept and the riches that it offers. Make no mistake; CKV is an underestimated 'crown jewel' of Dutch education.

There is a huge irony in the fact that as the Stedelijk museum in Amsterdam is finally open again and with the reopening of the Rijksmuseum also on the horizon, cultural education should have this ominous threat hanging over it.

I for one want to register my voice against this educational development. I would very much like to stress that in the rush for constant renewal in education there is a serious risk that we might actually (if I can use an English phrase), be throwing the cultural baby out with the bath water.

Yours sincerely

Peter Sansom
CKV docent
Maaslandcollege, Oss