

# CHEF D'OEUVRE

## ASHOKA EDUCATION



### THE PROJECT IN A NUTSHELL



«**TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS TO ENCOURAGE SELF-TRANSCENDENCE, BROADEN HORIZONS AND NURTURE STUDENTS' DEEP MOTIVATIONS.**»



#### CHALLENGE

The Chef d'Oeuvre project starts with a student's needs to go beyond what they do. The surpassing of oneself is thus at the heart of the project, which aims to encourage young people from the end of secondary school to connect with their deep motivations by creating a project. By breaking the school's codes, the Chef d'Oeuvre project aims to create vocations while developing the entrepreneurial skills through strong empowerment and a radical change in the pedagogical approach.



#### PROJECT

The projects requires each student to create a personal «Chef d'oeuvre», which must include artistic, technical, practical, and written components. Each student therefore freely chooses a transdisciplinary subject. The student is supported and accompanied by a mentor throughout the year. It ends with a presentation of the project before a jury followed by an exhibition in the school. The Chef d'Oeuvre thus allows to «decompartmentalize» the subjects and to involve the pupils in the process of learning by broadening their horizons.



#### STAKEHOLDERS

**The team:** the project requires different mentors to accompany the students throughout the year.  
**The coordinator:** A coordinator is essential to have the overall vision of the project, to communicate the important information to the students and to bring together the mentors and jury at the right time.



#### WORKLOAD

The workload is mainly allocated at the end of the year, at midday to answer questions or informally on a case-by-case basis depending on the project.



#### RESOURCES

The project requires having a place for the exhibitions of the Chef d'Oeuvres at the end of the year as well as for the final external jury. Financial support can also provide more flexibility for the purchase of material.

# HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT IN YOUR SCHOOL



## INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

In Secondary 5 at Christmas time, present the project Chef d'Oeuvre to the students and give them as a double objective before the end of the school year:

- 1/ **think about a topic** for their Chef d'Oeuvre (written)
- 2/ **find a mentor** for their Chef d'Oeuvre.

Sometimes the subject and the ideal mentor are clear in the students' minds. But when they lack ideas for their subject we can inspire them starting from **their strengths, their passions, the subjects of the previous years, the facts of news ...**

## PREPARATION OF THE MASTERPIECES



## STUDENTS' ACTION PLANS

At the beginning of the 6th year, students must have their subject and draw up a detailed action plan with:

- > **WHAT**: what they will look for, what they need
- > **WHEN**: when do they plan to do what?
- > **HOW**: the skills they will need

The teacher is there to help students **simplify the steps** to deconstruct the «mountain» and put them into action quickly. It is also an opportunity to help them **identify the skills they will need** and where to find them (teachers, experts, etc.).



## HALFWAY CHECK

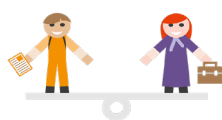
In December, with their mentor, students must have at least one advanced part: either **theoretical** or **practical**. The goal is to ensure that students are in the right direction and do not have a major block in their research. No presentation support is requested at this stage.

## FOLLOW-UP OF THE MASTERPIECES



## PRE-JURY

Before Easter, we bring together the mentors and some other volunteer teachers to compose a pre-jury. The students then **present the practical** part using a support, and put in **writing the theoretical part** (15 pages minimum). A possible redirection of the project is proposed by the pre-jury if necessary.



## FINAL JURY

In June, after the exams, students present their Chef d'Oeuvre to a **jury composed of their mentor, volunteer professors and any external experts as well as management**. The theoretical part must be submitted in writing before the exam sessions. At the end of the jury, each student receives an appreciation that counts as for a course.

## PRESENTATION OF THE MASTERPIECES



## PITCHES AND EXHIBITIONS

At the end of the year, a more festive event is organized to allow students to share their projects with the rest of the school and parents. This is an important moment for the recognition of their work.

A dedicated format is proposed:

- > **presentation to the public in 300 seconds**
- > **stand in the exhibition of projects**

# PRE-REQUISITES FOR THE PROJECT



Having **trained a small team of motivated teacher mentors** is essential for the success of the project. It is an ambitious project that can become stressful, so it is essential to find balance in the involvement of everyone and to show **kindness and tolerance!**

Also remember to inform parents ahead of the project so that they can play an active role in supporting students and be present at the end of the year exhibitions.

# BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT

## INTERDISCIPLINARY

One of the specificities of this project lies intersection of various disciplines of the students' Masterpieces. Creating a link between the practical and the theoretical parts is therefore essential, the technical part can be related to art, robotics, philosophy or any other subject!

## COACHING ATTITUDE

Teachers must adopt a coaching attitude that involves a lot of openness and letting go. It also sometimes requires accepting to train subjects that are less well-mastered or to draw inspiration from the corporate world. It can also be interesting to train the teachers of the team with methodologies of multiple intelligences to better understand the specificities of each student with his Chef d'Oeuvre to accompany him at best.



## MASTERPIECES LIFE

It is essential to make the Masterpieces live beyond their presentation at the end of the year. Do not hesitate to present them during the school's open days, to produce photo reports and even to develop the product / object if necessary to make it a showcase of the school, to value its alumni and to inspire them!

## IMPACT ON STUDENTS

The project Chef d'Oeuvre is a real tool for surpassing oneself which can sometimes create vocations. Students, by becoming experts on a subject, are able to demonstrate what they know how to do. They thus gain a greater confidence in themselves, get to know each other better, but also learn to accept error and to overcome it. It is an excellent preparation for the university!

# MORE INFORMATION TO GO FURTHER



## CONTACT

Meet the project owner  
Yannick Verstraeten  
[yannick\\_ver@hotmail.com](mailto:yannick_ver@hotmail.com)

## VIDEO

Discover the story, the participants and behind the scenes of the project in video:  
[ashoka.org/en-be/eduinnovation](https://ashoka.org/en-be/eduinnovation)

