

» Press Gang

Students embark on arts project visualising market after renewal

by Melissa York

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» Four Canning Town schools have teamed up with a local arts centre and builders to construct their own vision of their area after planned regeneration works.

The project, called Imaginings of Canning Town, is bringing together pupils aged between eight and 14 from St Luke's Primary, Ruscoe Road; Star Primary, Hilda Road; Rokeby School, Barking Road, and Grange Primary, Suffolk Road.

The children will spend six weeks creating models of their own imaginary with the help of West Ham-based Rosetta Arts Centre.

Visit

They are drawing up designs, building models out of air drying clay and decorating them with materials of their choice. The models are to be unveiled as an installation piece in an exhibition to be held at Rokeby School on December 8 from 3pm to 5pm.

Sanaz Amidi, head of the centre, said: "We have designed this project to bring children together and encourage them to share and exchange ideas about their local environment in a fun and creative way.

"It's an opportunity for the children to build their person-



■ Julie Dugbatey from Rosetta Art Centre with pupils from Grange Primary

al, social, creative and cultural skills as they generate ideas based on what they have learnt about their surroundings."

The project is sponsored by Canning Town building contractors John Sisk and Son who are working on Plot One of the Rathbone Market regeneration scheme.

The company invited an older group of children from Roke-

by to visit the site to learn about the £47.5million retail and residential development and the construction industry.

Contract manager Chris Harrison said: "Local children will get the opportunity to see a live construction site and learn more about what is involved in the building of the market.

"Hopefully the visit will help inspire their model towns."

