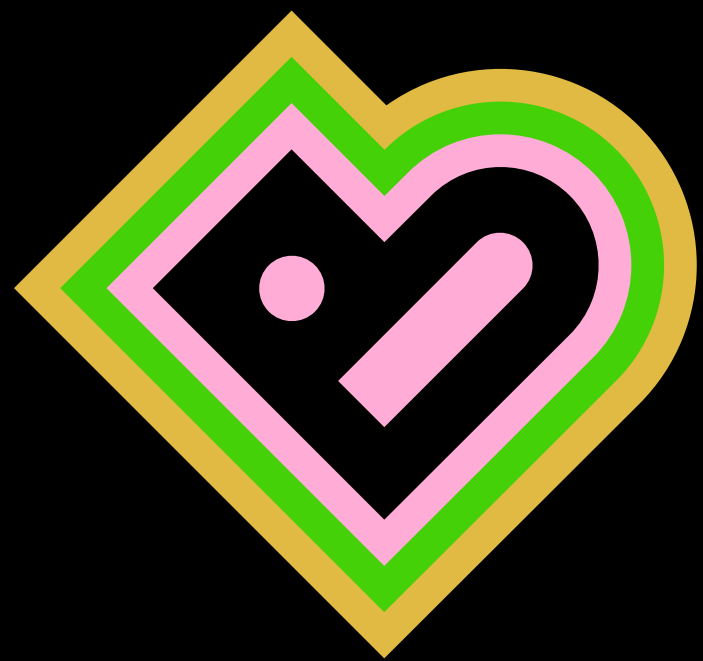


BRADFORD MADE

Tower of Now

Celebrating Bradford's Languages

For ages 9-14
(KS2 and KS3 learners)



BRADFORD 2025
UK City of Culture

Tower of Now

Celebrating Bradford's Languages

Created by artist Saad Qureshi and installed at Hall Ings during Bradford 2025, this 15-metre sculpture pays tribute to the rich variety of cultures present in our city, our district and our nation in 2025.

Saad Qureshi was eight years old when he moved to Bradford from rural Pakistan, quickly finding his place in what he describes as 'a community defined by diversity'. Twenty years later, after leaving to study art, the young boy has now become an internationally acclaimed artist. With Tower of Now, Saad took inspiration from his Bradford childhood to create his most ambitious public sculpture yet.

The sculpture explores how identity is shaped by the buildings around us, and celebrates Bradford as a city where multiple cultures, languages and stories meet.

Saad's interest in the huge range of languages spoken here is woven into this profound artwork about community, memory, and belonging.



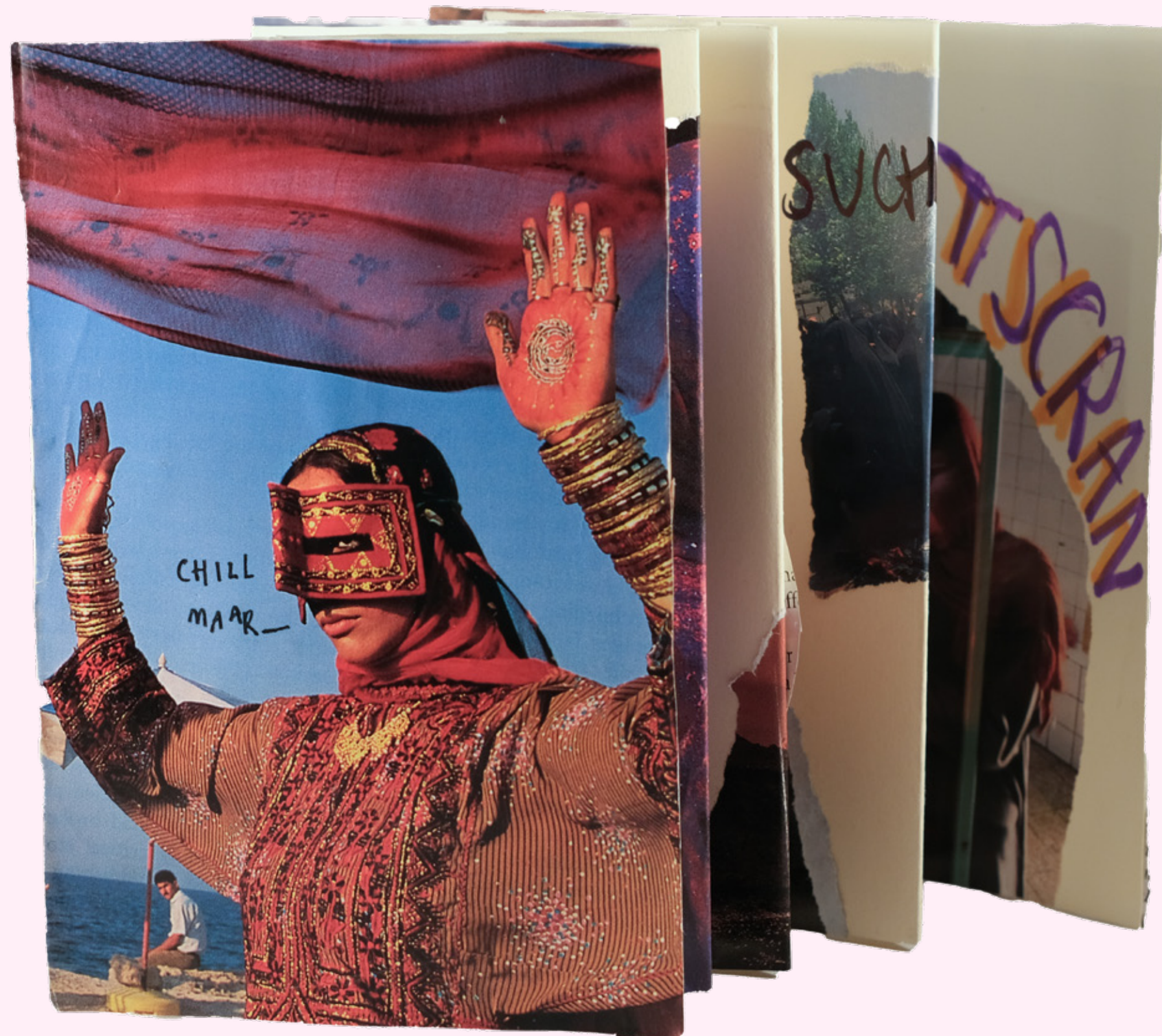
Cover image: Saad Qureshi Tower of Now, © Jonty Wilde
Above image: Saad Qureshi, © Jonty Wilde

Activity at a Glance

[Back to contents](#) ↩

Discuss and record ideas about the languages spoken in Bradford and our use of dialect and slang.

Create a concertina book using collage and text to express Bradford's unique diversity of languages, dialect and slang.



You will need:

- A3 card or thick paper for folding your book
- Old magazines, newspaper and other collage materials
- Pens
- Scissors
- Glue
- Ideas from the Engage section (page 4)

Approximate session times:

- Engage activities: 30 minutes – 1 hour
- Make, Create and Do activities: 1 – 2 hours

Key words:

Dialect, Slang, Diversity, Identity, Linguistic, Multilingual, Community

Recommended for:

For ages 9-14 (KS2 and KS3 learners)

Adaptable for learners of all ages interested in celebrating culture and community.

Links to:

Art / English / MFI / PSHCE / Citizenship / Storytelling
Local Learning / Heritage / Identity

One of the things that inspired Saad Qureshi to create The Tower of Now was the diversity of Bradford's population and the huge number of languages spoken in the city.

How many languages do you think are spoken in our city? Which ones? What are the main languages spoken in your learning environment?

Did you know? More than 150 languages are spoken in the district.

Including (but not limited to...)

*English / Urdu / Punjabi / Pothwari/ Pahari / Pushto
Polish / Bengali / Arabic / Kurdish / Italian / Romanian
Czech / Slovak / Gujarati / Spanish / Lithuanian / Latvian
Russian / Hungarian / Farsi / Mandarin / French / Kikongo
Lingala / Swahili / Yoruba / Romani / British SignLanguage*

Why do you think we have such language diversity in Bradford?

Create a big group list or mind map of Bradford's languages. This can be done individually, in pairs, or in groups.

Watch this TikTok from the Bradford 2025 team and add to your ideas

[Exploring Languages in Bradford City Centre | TikTok](#) 

How many languages can you say hello in?
Can you use an online translator to write a word or phrase in lots of different languages? You could use the word 'home'.

Exploring dialect and slang

What about the way we speak English in Bradford?

- Which Yorkshire words or phrases are unique to our region?
- Which ones might confuse people elsewhere?
- What is unique about our dialect and slang?
- How does slang change with time and across generations?

Watch this TikTok from the Bradford 2025 team to help – [Bradford Slang Video](#) 

Artists often use images and text together to create interesting artwork

- Choose eight words from the Engage activity that best capture what language in Bradford means to you.
- Fold your A3 card into a concertina book.
- Add a title. You could use '*A little book of Bradford Language*' or come up with your own.
- Design your eight words to stick on your pages.
- Use collage to make a colourful, patchwork style background for your words.
- Stick in your word designs to build your unique book.

You could create a gallery of your mini books in your learning space.

We'd love to hear your thoughts and see your learners' creations. Please share your outputs with us by emailing learn@bradford2025.co.uk or by tagging us on social media: [@Bradford_2025](#) and by using our [#BradfordMade](#) hashtag.

How to fold a concertina book

[Gallery Assistant Asiya Hussain shows you how to make a concertina book - YouTube](#) ➔
Video by Impressions Gallery Bradford.



Make sure to spend a decent amount of time with your learners unpicking the questions and mind mapping activities in the Engage section. It's a great opportunity for learners to celebrate their language and the specific language mix of Bradford.

It would be good to explore the linguistic diversity of the city by collecting together some of the many 'mother languages' of Bradford (exploring the phrase 'mother language' itself could make for an interesting discussion). You could use the list below or the languages of your own setting and then use an online translator to explore how a phrase can look and sound in many different languages. Learners could also make a video, similar to the one shared in the resource pool for your own setting.

It is also interesting and fun to explore Bradford and Yorkshire's specific dialect and slang words, and to look at the impact that geography and the passing of time have on colloquial language.

Make a big group list with your learners of slang and dialect words that they use. You could talk about which of those words are regional and place specific and which come from social media or other sources. You could ask your learners whether these words are appropriate in all contexts and whether they can sometimes be considered offensive? Would learners' grandparents have a different list of dialect words? Why is this? Words such **owt**, **nowt**, **ey up** could be a starting point, but learners will have their own examples.

These collecting and mind mapping activities can be done in pairs, small groups or as part of a larger group discussion – but make sure to get learners talking about talk!

The collage book activity is a nice way to represent the way that a multitude of languages, dialect and slang come together in Bradford to create a vibrant linguistic landscape.

Links to Explore Further

Back to contents ↩

More about the Tower of Now

[Tower of Now | Bradford 2025](#) ➔

More about Saad Qureshi

[Saad Qureshi | Saad Qureshi](#)
[Award winning artist based in London & Oxford](#) ➔

More resources on accents and dialects and slang

[Accent and dialect guide for KS3 English students](#)
[– BBC Bitesize](#) ➔

[Don't be a doilum, read this list of 40 Yorkshire sayings](#)
[– Bradford Telegraph and Argus](#) ➔

[Yorkshire phrases and what they mean](#)
[– Bradford Life - University of Bradford](#) ➔

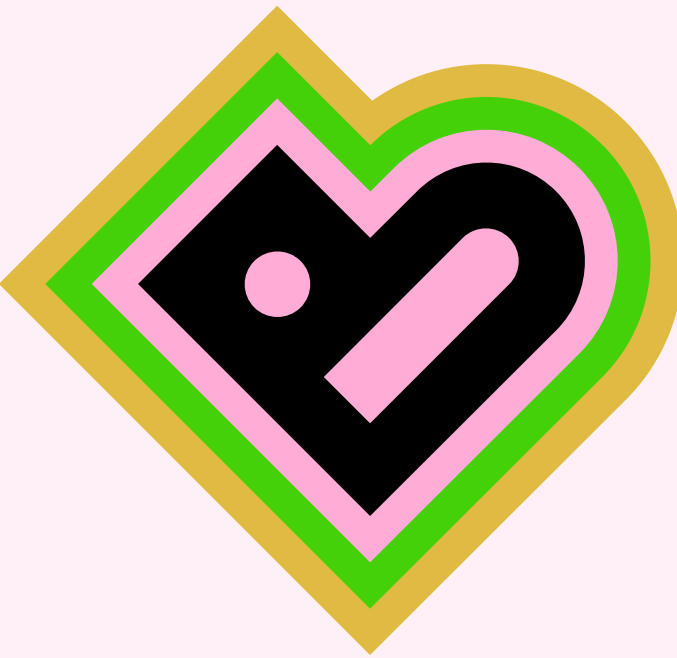


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Credits

This resource was created by Anna Cole (Bradford Made Learning Specialist, Bradford 2025), tested with the Bradford 2025 Young Creatives cohort. Outputs were digitised by Dominic Braund (Assistant Creative Technologist, Bradford 2025). Graphic Design by Lee Goater.

This resource was commissioned by Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture.



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