



Case Study

Inverness Museum and Art Gallery

WHY TAKE PART ?

The museum had never previously taken part in Takeover Day, but the Assistant Curator in charge of engagement thought that it sounded like an exciting project, and a good way to link with a local primary school.

WHO TOOK PART ?

Thirty P5 and P6 children (9-11 year olds), from a local primary school. They attended museum workshops in advance of Takeover Day to prepare for the day. They were divided into two groups and learned about roles they were taking over and researched objects.

WHAT DID THEY DO ?

The Engagement Officer made a preliminary visit to the primary school before Takeover Day to discuss possible roles so students therefore arrived at the museum fully briefed. Two main teams worked as curators. One team prepared a gallery tour of the V&A's touring exhibition, 'A Teddy Bear Story'. The other team selected a gallery to interpret and wrote new labels for their favourite objects. Both groups gave guided tours to the public, school friends and their families, sharing the amazing facts and stories that had inspired their interpretations.

HOW DID THEY SPEND THEIR TIME ON THE DAY ?

On Takeover Day itself, students took on roles as:

- Curators – preparing a gallery tour of the V&A's touring exhibition
- Curators – choosing objects, writing labels and giving gallery tours of objects from the collection for which they had written labels
- Visitor Services Assistants – welcoming all visitors to the museum and conducting visitor surveys
- Social Networkers and Photographers – reporting on the event and posting texts and images throughout the day on Facebook and the school blog.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT ?

Many families, who had never previously visited the museum, came to accompany their children on Takeover Day. These families have subsequently returned unprompted on repeat visits. At the end of the day there was a group discussion about the event during which goodie bags were given to the children and verbal feedback was collected. Children were encouraged to write to the museum, which many did. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and children reported that they would like to participate in Takeover Day every week! Teachers commented on how Takeover Day positively contributed to Excellence in the Curriculum. Museum staff and teachers wholeheartedly supported the event and they gained a lot of confidence as well as the desire to start up other new projects. Staff were amazed by the children's capacity to present to the public, their self-confidence and their enthusiasm. The day has inspired staff to develop a new, co-curated project using the reserve collection and, possibly a digital exhibition and a desire to develop partnerships with other Scottish heritage organisations. The museum also intends to set up a youth forum.

'It gave us a great chance to find out what our younger visitors really value about the exhibitions and also to ensure that they really feel at home in their museum. After all, these children are not only the visitors of today, they also hold the future of our heritage in their hands.' Engagement Officer