



## Case Study

### National Portrait Gallery

#### WHY TAKE PART ?

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The National Portrait Gallery Learning Team saw Takeover Day as the perfect opportunity to develop and expand their Youth Forum programme and to gain direct feedback from young people for specific Gallery departments. The Youth Forum meets monthly, as well as at other times, for example during their peer-led drawing sessions. It advises on, and participates in the Gallery's learning events and programming. The members (aged between 14 and 21) had previously only participated in front of house activities.

#### WHO TOOK PART ?

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Eight members, aged 18-21, of the Forum. This has 35 members in all but, since it was a weekday, only members over 18 were granted permission to take time out of formal education to attend. National Portrait Gallery apprentices were also invited to host Youth Forum members, as this gave the young people valuable insight into positions available for people their own age.

#### WHAT DID THEY DO ?

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Students worked across the Gallery, shadowing and participating in activities across Departments including Learning, Marketing and Communications, Visitor Services and the Director's Office.

#### HOW DID THEY SPEND THEIR TIME ON THE DAY ?

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Students provided biographies to share with relevant staff. They worked with the following departments:

- Publishing – researching which portraits they would make into a postcard and learning about the benefit of publishing catalogues and postcards
- Marketing and Press – sorting press cuttings, live tweeting and using Instagram
- Learning – seeking out young people's art blogs and taking over the Young People's Programmes Assistant role
- Learning – taking part in a specially commissioned film for a fundraising gala which they edited using digital software
- Visitor Services – welcoming and guiding visitors through the Gallery
- Archive – Finding out how the Archive supports research surrounding the portraits in the Gallery's Collection
- Digital Programmes – Mastering the importance of museum software and discovering how the Collection is photographed to create an online facility for a global audience
- Director's Office – Examining the Director's role and how it's coordinated by the Director's Office

#### WHAT HAPPENED NEXT ?

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The day ended with a debrief. Staff and members shared opinions, completed evaluation forms and agreed that it had been mutually beneficial. The day was felt to have been overwhelmingly positive. Youth Forum members stated that their notions of portraiture had expanded and that the day would affect their own progression in work and future career plans. One participant stated that it had inspired her to study Art at University.

*'I learnt so much from the youth forum today, like what more we can do to make the Gallery a more youth friendly place. I never knew more than three hashtags was so uncool or how to research thousands of blogs within seconds!'*

Young People's Programmes Assistant