



## Case Study

### Windsor Castle – Royal Collection Trust

#### WHY TAKE PART ?

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Royal Collection Trust, Windsor Castle, had not previously taken part in Takeover Day. The Learning Manager wanted to extend existing links with local secondary Langley Academy to promote a lasting interest in the Royal Collection among the students involved and enhance perceptions of Windsor Castle as a centre for learning for young people. Windsor Castle had previously worked with the French department in outreach sessions at the school. They wanted to extend these links to other departments and run a joint project on the Windsor Castle site.

#### WHO TOOK PART ?

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Forty five Year 7 (11-12 year olds) and a small number of Years 12 & 13 (16-18 year olds) from Langley Academy, the only academy in the UK with a museum focus.

#### WHAT DID THEY DO ?

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They planned a Fashion and Finery day at Windsor Castle, where Year 7 students set up a display of Tudor replica armour and costumes, together with images and information about Royal Collection paintings which had links to the replica items on display. They also led activities for Year 3 children (7-8 year olds) from a local primary school, visiting in the morning. A Tudor music group also performed and Langley students taught the primary school children a simple dance and explained about the music of the time. Students also welcomed and led tours of the display for Castle visitors. At school, students wrote labels in French and English. They met two curators at the Castle to discover more about clothing and armour; interpretation of collections and writing labels.

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

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The event took place in the Moat education space, with students wearing replica clothes and armour directing visitors from the entrance to the display. They shared information with visitors. Students were divided into three groups of approximately 15 students, each spending around an hour and a half on the activities.

Before the day students acted as:

- Marketing staff – creating flyers and posters to give to visitors on the day and advertising their display
- Audio Technicians – recording a CD of period music by students from the Music Faculty which was played when the Tudor music group had a break

On the day students acted as:

- Visitor Welcome Hosts – directing and welcoming visitors to the display
- Gallery Guides – talking about the displays and giving information to visitors
- Education Officers – devising resources and leading activities for visiting primary school children

#### WHAT HAPPENED NEXT ?

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Verbal feedback from the students, academy staff, primary school visitors and members of the public who visited the displays was extremely positive. The Learning Manager plans to work with other faculties and year groups both at the academy and at Windsor Castle to further develop the secondary school programme, building further strong curriculum links.

*'Takeover Day provided an opportunity to further develop our work with Langley Academy students and staff on a mutually beneficial project.'* Learning Manager