

ARTS AWARD Case Study 2

Norwich Castle and Arts Gallery



Norwich Castle, built by the Normans as a Royal Palace 900 years ago, is now home to collections of fine art, archaeology and natural history.

WHY DO ARTS AWARD?

The staff at Norwich Castle wanted to offer a meaningful work experience week to young people. They receive a lot of requests to do work experience and usually aren't able to accept as they don't have enough staff resources. However because the Volunteer and Special Events Co-ordinator had been trained as an Arts Award adviser it meant they could open their doors to a small number of young people wanting an arts-based work experience.

WHICH LEVEL AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

The Volunteer and Special Events Co-ordinator decided to offer Bronze Arts Award to give added value to the young people's work experience with a qualification. This meant they also had a strong framework for the week.

WHO DID IT?

Five Year 10 students from three Norfolk high schools, one large school, one medium and one small, were selected from CVs submitted. The young participants had all asked to do work experience in the museum so although they came from a variety of backgrounds they had a common interest.

WHAT DID THEY DO?

The week of work experience was designed to show the young people how a museum works and also demonstrate how the Castle is an enjoyable place to visit.

To discover the wide range of activities and skills involved in running the Castle they were given talks by the Conservation Department, Learning Team and had a tour of the conservation laboratory.

For their portfolio they created written work about the current exhibition. A curator from the Art Department at the Castle gave them a talk about the exhibition. This gave the students a unique insight into his work. They then wrote movingly about the impact of the exhibition on them.

WHAT DID THEY LEARN?

The students learned how to support each other, and how to share their skills. The experience allowed them to gain an appreciation of the extremely wide ranging skills required to run a museum and this extended their interest in and enjoyment of Norwich Castle.

I thought the week was excellent! I really enjoyed it and it's been a great opportunity for work experience – everyone's been really nice and welcoming. A great week!

MAHALIA AGE 15

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

To round up on the excellent work done by the young people, the Volunteer and Special Events Co-ordinator invited a local councillor to come and award the students with their Arts Award certificates. This added value to what they had achieved and made them feel like they were part of the museum once more.

The project inspired them in different ways. For example, one student is now interested in volunteering at Norwich Castle after her GCSEs, and another is considering a career in conservation.

This was the first time Norwich Castle had run Arts Award so they asked the group for feedback on how to improve the experience for next year as they have plans to run it again.

QUOTE FROM MUSEUM

I am delighted to have been able to deliver Bronze Arts Award to these young people, it was an absolute pleasure working with them and very rewarding to have provided them with a qualification, thereby ensuring their work experience was definitely a worthwhile one.

VOLUNTEER AND SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

Contact the Arts Award helpdesk at
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Arts Award is run by Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England working with 10 Bridge organisations.

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