

Use Museums and Galleries to Improve Pupils' Literacy

Museums and galleries are inspiring places that support pupils' literacy and help raise attainment in writing.

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Recent research has proven that a partnership between schools, museums and galleries achieved on average an increase in pupil attainment in writing that was 35% greater than nationally set expectations for progress.

Reasons why museums and galleries are excellent places to nurture literacy learning:

Awe and wonder of the museum environment and the way children are encouraged to connect with museum and art gallery collections, and opportunities for object handling.

New skills – both in terms of how to investigate a museum collection, how to interact with adults in a new environment and the creative skills learnt with creative practitioners.

New experiences engage children in a way that encourages them to enjoy writing about it!

National Football Museum



“ *The Lancashire School Effectiveness Service has been working in partnership with museums and schools in Preston on developing creative approaches to teaching and learning. There is a real “buzz” in the participating schools and the programme is showing how museums can be used to stimulate children’s use of language and build self confidence as they share their work with a wide range of audiences. It is proving a great success for all involved.*

Jonathan Hewitt
Head of the Lancashire School Effectiveness Service

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I have learned that my writing outcome can be very creative...put it on a suitcase or wear it on a T-shirt...it does not have to be just a piece of paper!

Sue Alty, Lead Practitioner, Preston Museums and Schools in Partnership

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Preston Museums and Schools in Partnership

Since May 2007 primary and secondary schools in Preston have been working with the following four museums:

- ★ Harris Museum and Art Gallery
- ★ Queen's Lancashire Regimental Museum
- ★ National Football Museum
- ★ Museum of Lancashire

We are moving away from the traditional one-off school visit to a museum towards structuring the visit into a half-term scheme of work for English. Together, schools, museums and creative practitioners (artists specialising in arts, crafts, drama, dance and movement, ICT, etc.) have developed a creative programme of new activities for schools which can help raise pupils' attainment in English.

Preston's museums and galleries are working with schools to create exciting opportunities to deliver the Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 curriculum. The sessions fulfil many of the key features of the national curriculum, and encourage young people to use what they learn through museums in their wider world.

Ongoing training and development opportunities for teachers have supported their teaching of literacy through museums and galleries.

Preston Museums and Schools in Partnership is co-ordinated by a specialist consultant and is funded by Renaissance in the Regions, a national funding programme for regional museums.



National Football Museum

Claire Wood

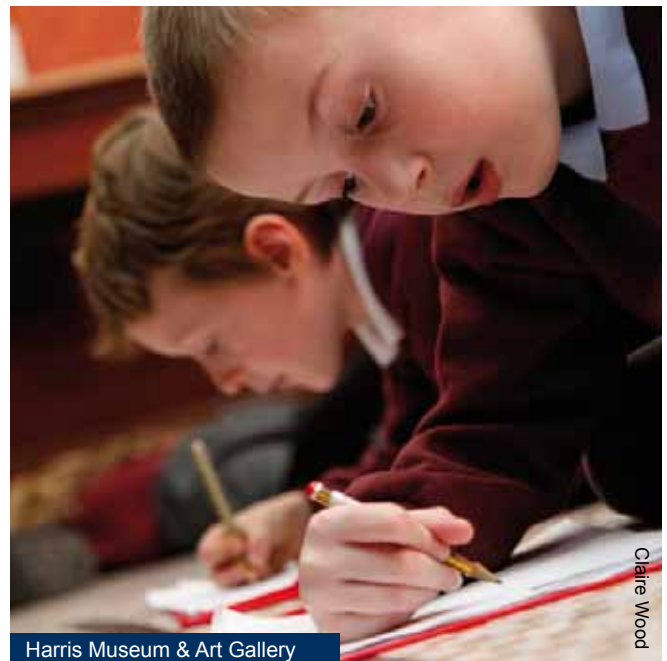
Harris Museum and Art Gallery (half day)

Text type: Narrative

KS2

Situated in the impressive gallery space at the Harris Museum and Art Gallery, children take part in a variety of activities (role play, freeze frame, thought tracking, paired talk, fast timed writing in role). Working closely with the creative practitioner, children use 'The Rising of the Nile' painting for their inspiration

The follow-up session in school encompasses re-cap and oral story-telling, role-play, and creative writing activities leading to a first draft of the children's stories.



Harris Museum & Art Gallery

Claire Wood

National Football Museum (full day)

Text type: Poetry

KS2

This workshop for schools focuses on the museum's collection of artefacts related to football, including a number of interactive exhibitions, a ground tour of Preston North End Football Club and a stimulating session handling real museum objects. Children are encouraged to gather words relating to feelings and emotions in order to facilitate their poetry writing back in school. A follow-up visit in school with the creative practitioner includes badge and card making and printing the children's poetry onto T-shirts.

“ I like the lead taken by the creative practitioner, which adds a different dimension to the museum package and to the school.
Peter Evans, Education Officer,
National Football Museum ”

“ We prepared for this visit by reading the diaries of soldiers. During the school follow-up session we learnt more about evacuees.
Pupil, KS3 ”

Improve your pupils' literacy with museums and galleries

Museum of Lancashire (half day)

Text type: Correspondence: Letter writing
KS3

This is an energetic workshop! Using the museum's Second World War collection, students are encouraged to develop their knowledge and experience, thoughts and feelings about war. This, along with an object handling session of Second World War artefacts, leads students to write down words to inspire their letters to loved ones whilst being separated during the war years. Our dance and movement specialist then takes the students through a series of visual tableaux, focusing on the theme of separation, meeting and parting, and hurried farewells.

The letters children write back at school are used as part of a narrative to support the choreography, which pupils create with their creative practitioner.

This session is suitable for students with no prior experience of dance, movement or choreography.

Queen's Lancashire Regimental Museum (half day)

Text type: Reporting and correspondence
KS3

This is an engaging, interactive session, during which students interview Officer Collins from the First World War (role play). This is followed by an object handling session that develops speaking and listening skills and a letter writing activity 'in character' (as a soldier, mother, brother or friend). Finally, students learn how to communicate using Morse code. Letters written by students are posted back to school, to be used as a starter activity by the creative practitioner during the school's follow-up session.

Research has shown that pupils involved in museum and gallery literacy activities have:

- ★ Enhanced their writing through first hand experience and language development
- ★ Improved their speaking and listening skills, leading to improved writing
- ★ Written at greater length and with greater enjoyment



Museum of Lancashire

Claire Wood



Queen's Lancashire Regimental Museum

“ The handling session was fantastic. It gave all the children the chance to see, at first hand, a selection of archives. Some were lucky enough to be able to try on clothes and boots that each had a story to tell.
Sheena Crawshaw, teacher

Pupils loved being in the changing rooms and seeing the dirty football shirts and remains of the previous game scattered about.
Lucy Bergman, creative practitioner

The children were enthusiastic, used their imagination and produced original and exciting work.
Jane Blackburn, Creative Practitioner ”

“Immersing the children in information and experiences that were completely alien to them, but allowing them to seek out ways to understand and empathise, meant that students could create sensitive and surprisingly astute written work.
Lucy Bergman,
Creative Practitioner”

National Football Museum

Develop creative teaching and learning with museums and galleries

Teachers who have used museums and galleries to support literacy have:

- ★ enhanced literacy teaching and learning by linking it to first-hand experience in museums and galleries
- ★ learnt new creative approaches to teaching literacy
- ★ re-established purpose as the key motivational force in writing through the use of museum and gallery collections
- ★ developed a more cross-curricular approach to the teaching of writing
- ★ increased the use of visual images, speaking and listening and performance in their teaching



Claire Wood

Museum of Lancashire



Harris Museum & Art Gallery

Training and support for teachers

Participating teachers attend INSET sessions at the museums and galleries. These sessions are led by our consultant, with specialist input from Lancashire County Council Advisors and museum professionals.

“I enjoyed going round the stadium [National Football Museum] and finding out things I didn't know. It was fascinating to go in the changing rooms as there were things in it from last night's game...you could imagine what it would be like.
Participating pupil, KS3”

The following museums in Preston have worked together to develop their literacy resources for schools. Each museum is able to tailor their literacy sessions to each school's particular requirements. Many sessions are linked across museums, enabling schools to visit more than one museum.

Harris Museum and Art Gallery

To make a booking or find out more:
Tel: Dawn Worthington 01772 905405
Email: d.worthington@preston.gov.uk

National Football Museum

To make a booking or find out more:
Tel: Peter Evans 01772 908426
Email: peter.evans@nationalfootballmuseum.com

Museum of Lancashire

To make a booking or find out more:
Tel: Charlotte Steels 01772 534066
Email: charlotte.steels@lancashire.gov.uk

Queen's Lancashire Regimental Museum

To make a booking or find out more:
Tel: Jane Davies 01772 260362
Email: qlrmuseum@btconnect.com

If you would like to find out more about the project please contact the co-ordinator, Lesley Parkinson,
Tel: 07906 746193 Email: parkmedia@hotmail.com



Claire Wood

Harris Museum & Art Gallery

Museums for changing lives

Renaissance is the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's (MLA) national £300 million programme to transform England's regional museums. For the first time ever, investment from central government is helping regional museums across the country to raise their standards and deliver real results in support of education, learning, community development and economic regeneration. Renaissance is helping museums to meet people's changing needs – and to change people's lives.

For more information and further copies of this leaflet visit www.renaissancenw.org.uk or contact the Renaissance North West team on 0161 235 8825

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