

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a Derby Opportunity Area careers initiative
Curriculum Provision	✓	Enriching enquiry-based learning in History in KS1+2
Employer Partnerships	✓	Starting a partnership link with Historic England
Reflective Young People	✓	With an evaluation process for the wider programme
Informed Career Choices	✓	Providing insights into career roles in the heritage sector

Historic England provides expert input for a whole-school, whole-term focus in History

Landau Forte Moorhead is a Derby primary school that is emerging from a challenging situation and is developing the use of enquiry-based learning based around themes connected with chosen curriculum subjects. The History topic for this project focused on the Fire of London (years 1-2), The Romans (years 3-4) and World War II (years 5-6).

Discussions with the Regional Education Manager for Historic England identified resources about listed sites in the Derby area. These included a Roman settlement excavated in a local park and memorials for victims of bombing raids and sites of anti-aircraft guns. The information was used for PowerPoint slide sets and research folders and included a short video about the work of Historic England, concluding with the message, 'Help us champion England's historic places.'

The culmination of the term-long History project was an afternoon exhibition of the children's work, to which parents and other members of the community were invited. In the morning, a visit by an expert guest from Historic England provided an opportunity to have a preview of the children's work, but also to talk about the wide variety of roles involved in the Heritage sector – ranging from scuba divers on listed wrecks to conservation specialists.

The link with Historic England is being maintained for when the project is repeated next year and the organisation, which has been targeted to work in Opportunity Areas like Derby, is also keen to encourage involvement Heritage Schools programme.

Benefits for the Students

- Children were surprised to discover an organisation that had many jobs to do with History, with many children expressing interest in the work of archaeologists.
- The guest from Historic England was able to provide positive and encouraging feedback about the children's work before it was displayed in the community exhibition.
- *'They are visitors that come into the classroom and ask questions about what we learned.'*
- *'It was more interesting because in a book you can't go inside. But when you see it for real, you can.'*

Benefits for the School

- The process of developing project-based learning, starting with a purposeful task and concluding with a tangible outcome, is now being used to shape other schemes of work.
- *'It made it far more exciting and relevant to children on their journey of learning in this way.'*
- *'Anyone you put in front of the children who is an expert immediately gets their interest. Projects like this help to develop their aspirations that are more than wanting to be things that they know ... an archaeologist or museum curator ... opening that door of possibility.'*

Benefits for the Employer

- Resources were provided by Historic England early in the project, using local examples that helped to bring the topics to life, without the need to plan and deliver a classroom session.
- *'Using the local area is a very powerful tool to engage children with the history. At this age, we try to engage their enthusiasm and to start asking questions – to love the subject.'*
- *'It gives importance to the children's work that someone has taken the time to come in to see their work and tell them that it is really good.'*

Romans in Derby



This Roman pot was dug up from site of the old settlement



Living in Derby during WW2



The Rolls Royce factory was protected by anti-aircraft guns



Historic England



Information about local historic sites was used to enrich learning in different topics for a term-long project History project. A guest from Historic England provided feedback on the same day that children were creating an exhibition of their classroom work for the local community