



Case Study

Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford

WHY TAKE PART ?

For the last two years, Bradford Museums and Galleries successfully participated in Takeover Day at Bolling Hall Museum and Manor House Museum and Art Gallery. Takeover Day 2013 provided the opportunity for Cartwright Hall Art Gallery to work with one of its local schools.

WHO TOOK PART ?

Twenty nine Year 5 pupils (9-10 year olds) from Whetley Academy. The school is located within walking distance of the gallery and although many of the pupils have visited the surrounding park, only two pupils in the year 5 class had previously visited the gallery.

WHAT DID THEY DO ?

Many pupils had never visited an art gallery before, so Learning and Outreach staff went into school during the week of Takeover Day. They discussed with the children what they'd find in an art gallery, the different jobs they would participate in across gallery departments and new skills they would develop.

HOW DID THEY SPEND THEIR TIME ON THE DAY ?

Children had a busy day participating in rotating activities and working with different staff members. They took on roles including:

- Exhibition Curators – finding out about how work is judged in Cartwright Hall's Open exhibition and judging some works
- International Art Curators – unpacking, identifying and checking the condition of objects
- Natural Sciences Curators – identifying and monitoring pests
- Learning and Outreach Officers – creating a new family trail
- Learning Team Co-ordinators – answering phone enquiries
- Business Assistants – checking and pricing shop stock before putting it on display
- Collections Officers – finding out about frame conservation and having a go at gilding techniques

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT ?

The children enjoyed the certificate presentation ceremony and shared their great enthusiasm for the day which they were still talking about two weeks later.

'Amazing, magnificent. I'm always going to come here. You should never miss out.' Takeover Day participant

Having never visited before, children are keen to come back to the gallery. During Half Term, they'll give guided tours for friends and family using the trails they made and show their work, which was exhibited in a display case in the main hall. Other local schools, impressed by the skills development and cross curricular nature of Takeover Day, have contacted the museum service requesting to come and take over the gallery and other Bradford museums venues.

'Takeover Day at Cartwright Hall has reminded us what a rich resource our local museums and galleries are, which help us to enrich the lives and broaden the horizons of our children and their families.' Principal Whetley Academy