

ARCHIVE LEARN'T

Archives As An Educational Tool



EYA

This Resource Offers...

- The benefits of developing a schools offer for the archive, the teachers, and the pupils.
- What information to provide educators with in advance.
- What a school's workshop could look like for the pupils and educators.

Archives and Educators working together to create a new archive audience, for the future.

One in a Series

This resource is the second in a series designed to encourage and support archives in collaborating with the education sector. The series consists of the following resources:

- 1- Why your Archive should Work with Young People
- 2- Archives as an Educational Tool**
- 3- Ways to Contact Educators
- 4- Case Study
- 5- Additional Resources



Benefits

For Archives...



- Increases visibility and use of archives by a younger audience.
- Provides an opportunity to engage with educators on working with young people in the future.
- Dispels stereotypes that archives are only useful for those with an interest in history. Archives can support learning in a range of different subjects.
- Offers a chance to teach pupils about local history and subjects that may not be present in the national school curriculum.
- Provides an opportunity to speak to educators on how best to use archives for learning from their perspective.

For Educators...

- Archivists can present collection items that support the current curriculum.
- Enables contact with other archival institutions for further workshops and ideas for activities that can be used outside of the workshop to continue making archives accessible to younger audiences.

For Pupils...

- It's an opportunity for pupils to learn what archives are, their purposes, and how they can be used. This helps break down access barriers and demystifies archives to encourage their future use and increase support of the sector.
- Working with archives can support transferable skills such as customer service, communication, marketing, project management, digital skills, and so much more!
- Highlights potential work experience opportunities within the archive sector, particularly for pupils who are interested in the archive, cultural and heritage sectors.



Before approaching schools...

You need to check if you have items that are relevant to the curriculum:

- There are different national curricula in England, Wales and Scotland. Where are you based?
- Are you looking to work with primary or secondary classes?
- Which subjects do your collections speak to? Remember this can be more than just history!

Myth busting

Archives are relevant to a range of subjects. Think geography, science, media, arts, English! Students will be interested in your collections even if they are not studying history. The only limitation is your imagination. Be open to listening to teachers who might have some ideas that you may not have considered.

Remember...

Archivists are not teachers; we offer something different and are inviting students to collaborate with us. We want them to get involved and bring their opinions and ideas to the sessions. The archivist helps bring active learning into the classroom.

Approaching the Teachers

Communicating with educators is a must when preparing to work with a school. Both the archivist and teacher are experts in their fields and can use this opportunity as both a learning experience and a way to ensure everyone gets the most out of their visit.

What to say/do...

- You already know the benefits of utilising archives as an educational tool, so let the teachers know too. Help them understand what they and their students can gain from your visit.
- Keep the information specific and understandable to teachers. Do not assume their knowledge of archives and have a conversation!
- Let the school you're working with know what will happen beforehand, what to expect, what they'll need to prepare (e.g. computers, classroom set-up etc.) and what the objectives of the workshop are.
- Give details of the activities you have chosen to do, and what the day will look like for their pupils. They may have some good ideas of their own.
- Don't just pique the interest of the students; do it for the teachers too! Ignite their curiosity, and consider how they can get as much out of the day as the students can.

Keep in mind...

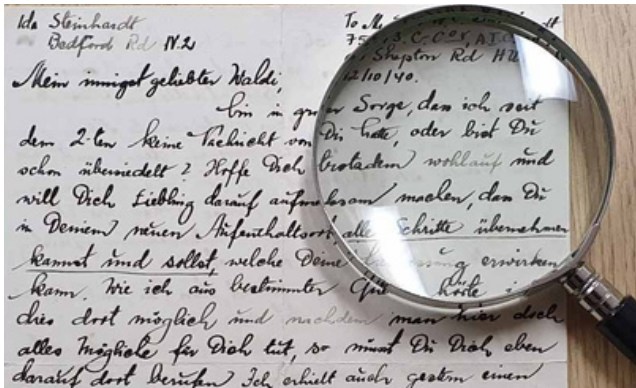
Working with teachers and pupils is a two way street. We are working together to create benefit for all parties.

Guidance through Games

Here are some ideas of what games can be used during a workshop. These highlight the funniness of archives to ease pupils into the idea of archives as something they can engage with.

Palaeography Challenge

Introduce basic palaeography concepts, then challenge the students to decipher a passage!



Match Old to New

Use older images of relevant locations with present images of the same place. Ask the pupils to match the old image to the present image.



A to B

Give students a starting topic. Ask them to use research methods and available archives to reach a seemingly unconnected end point. Ask students to document the links.

Morse Code Game

Using defence booklets, pupils use torches to spell out words/phrases from the booklet in morse code using the guide in the booklet. This follows a discussion about civil defence and methods of communication during times of war.

Telephone

Taking sentences from an archival source, (letter/diary/propaganda poster) have students whisper the sentence to each other, and see how the sentence has changed by the final student. This demonstrates how easy it is for false information to be passed on.

Familiar Places

Present an older picture of a familiar place to the students and have them try and guess what it is. Turn it into more of a game by, for example, having them assemble a jigsaw of the picture and guess at the same time.

