

CASE STUDY 4

NCCL GALLERIES OF JUSTICE MUSEUM NOTTINGHAM

Why take part? The Learning and Access Co-ordinator at the museum saw this as a good opportunity for colleagues in other departments to see the museum through a young visitor's eyes and to raise their awareness of the scope of what the museum can offer young people.

Who took part? Five pupils from Year 6 and three FE students. The museum advertised the opportunities on Facebook and Twitter; via the museum's youth panel, in the local press and through their school connections. Interested young people were invited to apply for a role.

What did they do? The young people took on roles in different museum departments – curatorial, visitor services, marketing, event management – and were given real work tasks to complete as well as giving their thoughts on the museum and suggestions for development.

How did they spend their time on the day?

- Curators – evaluated the museum's permanent exhibition and fed back suggestions of what was needed to change and what could be added to engage young people, spent time in the stores exploring the collection and selecting objects for display, researched their choice and wrote accompanying labels.
- Costumed Interpreter – took on the role of Judge in a performance tour and worked with the Court Usher Interpreter guiding visitors around the site and sentencing many of them!
- Marketing Executive – accompanied museum staff to a meeting at a local hotel to see how they could work more closely together; designed marketing material to promote Easter holiday activities for families and wrote a press release about Takeover Day.
- Head of Enterprise and Operations – arranged the induction plan for a new member of staff, organised the rota for the following month for over 20 staff, conducted a one-to-one with our Corporate Hospitality officer and supervised preparations for the Galleries' very first wedding.

What happened next? Some of the participants who took over the curator's role chose objects to be part of the museum's Object of the Month display. The young people will be involved in the text panels that accompany the objects and will be invited back to see their chosen object go on display. The museum also hopes to get some of the participants involved as advocates for its charity Help a Nottinghamshire Child which raises money to allow schools who otherwise could not afford to visit to come to the museum and take part in educational activities.

The museum is currently working on developing its three year interpretation strategy and the young people are continuing to provide their input into this process. They are helping to develop a new object and archive based education session for students of their age and have given the museum ideas about how they can market to young people.

'Two members of our youth panel feel that the day has given them more of an insight about what we do and allowed them to be more constructive with their participation in the youth panel.'

Carol King, Learning & Access Co-ordinator



Takeover Day Kids in Museums 2011 www.kidsinmuseums.org.uk