NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY EDUCATION
OUTREACH
IMPACT REPORT
2021–2022
To use the Library’s vast information resources, as well as its unique and distinctive collections, to provide creative and impactful opportunities for potential and current students to improve access, success and progression.
PROJECTS

Project based learning allows students to access unique resources, places and people, inspiring them to think and learn creatively. The scope of these projects are beyond the reach of ‘normal’ school lessons and positively challenge students to succeed in real-life scenarios. Links with the University provide unique opportunities to glimpse what Higher Education is like and raise aspirations.

Coal Mining

Children get few chances to take ownership of their own work, but this project offered exactly this opportunity. The students collaborated with Cap-a-Pie, a professional theatre company, who ensured the students had complete ownership of the play they created by incorporating their thoughts and ideas into the production.

Students who previously held back and didn’t speak up came to the fore, whilst teamwork and responsibility shone through their work.

“It [the project] enhanced their cultural capital and gave them experiences that they would not normally have.”
- Quote from Teacher

Find out more on our website
Co-creating projects with other organisations is a particular strength of the Education Outreach Team’s projects. Challenge Northumberland’s ethos of using nature to challenge students to work outside their comfort zones to develop resilience, teamwork and leadership skills offered a unique opportunity to use these experiences to develop creativity skills. Students found the experience stimulated their creativity and increased their confidence to try new things, including speaking in public.

“The physical activities... really pushed students beyond their normal spheres of reference and experiences. They loved writing outdoors and said it felt like a ‘treat’.”

- Quote from Teacher
Sense of Place

History and nature offer opportunities for reflection and wellbeing that are difficult to access for some students. Lack of access to heritage and nature are barriers to experiences that broaden horizons, raise aspirations and have a positive impact on wellbeing.

In this project, the Education Outreach Team worked with schools from urban areas with high levels of social deprivation and lack of social mobility.

By meeting new people, visiting new places and taking part in new activities to enhance their wellbeing, students had the time, space and opportunity to think more independently and deeply about their future opportunities and progressions.

“It’s an amazing adventure.”
- Year 10 student

Find out more on our website
Pandemics Through Time

Putting their voice at the heart of the project, the students worked alongside professional staff, doing a variety of activities including science experiments, creating and cataloguing their own archive and designing an online exhibition, enabling them to develop new skills. Accessing historical documents about past pandemics helped students to contextualise Covid-19.

“every single element was so practical and so varied that it appeal[ed] to the students in so many different ways.”
- Quote from Teacher

Delivered:
33 Taught Days
3,524 Contact Hours

During our projects we:

Engaged:
10 Schools
229 Primary and Secondary School students
WORKSHOPS

Workshops provide a unique experience for students to take a day out of their usual studies and allow their curiosity to blossom. Such interventions can, and do, change the direction that a student is taking.

A-level Research Skills Workshop

"tailor-made, informative and pitched at the right level for the students."

-Quote from Teacher

Working alongside Newcastle University students in an academic library gives A-level students an insight into what studying at university is like and whether it is for them.

Challenged to work slightly out of their comfort zone, but with support and access to library resources, these experiences raise aspirations and ease the transition to Higher Education.
Get Creative!

Our Get Creative wellbeing sessions, designed and delivered with Student Wellbeing and supported by the Catherine Cookson fund, were deliberately informal and offered Newcastle University students unique opportunities to make deep connections and gain a sense of belonging.

“Very, very fun! 😊 Therapeutic.”
-Quote from student

“I would recommend them... they offer a crafts-based approach to wellbeing, to socialisation, and to get to know the North East and its history and traditions.”
-Quote from student
Special Collections Workshops

Providing cross-curricular experiences outside the classroom encourages students to see the links between disparate subjects, such as History and Science. Visiting Newcastle University highlights the breadth of potential areas of study on offer and enhances their career aspirations.

Cracking Cholera

"In my many, many years of teaching and leading school trips, I think this might be one of the best workshops I have done."

-Quote from Teacher
Health and the People

Studying GCSE History rarely provides opportunities to see connections between subjects and how the past influences the present.

Using archives and rare books as the starting point then linking to current medical education enables students to see the relevance of a subject beyond the classroom.

“All of the hands-on activities were very engaging, particularly being able to touch extremely old texts that we had talked about in History lessons. It made it all seem a lot more real.”

-Quote from Student

Delivered:
41 A-level workshops
8 Get Creative workshops
7 Special Collections workshops

During our workshops we:

Engaged:
1510 A-level students
356 Secondary School students
56 Newcastle University students
ONLINE RESOURCES

Covid-19 has highlighted the importance of online resources and their ability to reach new audiences. Co-creation has been key to the success of these resources.

Sixth Form Study Skills

Designed to support teaching of the Research Skills workshop, the reach of this website has now expanded beyond local schools and colleges.

“Your site is amazing: attractive, really user-friendly and informative... CONGRATULATIONS on a magnificent achievement.”
-School Librarian

Total No. Visits 2021/2: 129,175
Most Popular Page: Overview of Dewey Decimal System
Longest Time Spent on a Page: 4 minutes 22 seconds

Total number of visits to all of Education Outreach’s online resources 2021–22: 189,217
British Civil Wars

Building upon an existing partnership with The National Civil War Centre, the British Civil Wars website demonstrates the strength of a cross-collection approach for creating an online educational resource.

“This is a wonderful resource which will be welcome to many teachers of KS3. Finely detailed, accurate resources to really motivate students!”

–Quote from Teacher

Total No. Visits 2021/22: 23,064
Most Popular Page: Choosing Sides
Longest Time Spent on a Page: 4 minutes 22 seconds

Health and the People

Initially created by GCSE History students for GCSE History students, this revision website has grown in breadth, with new content added to fulfil audience needs.

This graph shows peaks in visits to Health and the People during mock and GCSE examination periods, showing the website is meeting audience needs.

Total No. Visits 2021/22: 22,741
Most Popular Page: Revision Notes
Longest Time Spent on a Page: 3 minutes 53 seconds
In addition to its core funding from the University Library and the Robinson Bequest, the Education Outreach Team successfully applied to other funding streams, with a 100% success rate, demonstrating the value of our work.

Total additional funding received 2021-22: £32.95K

HISTORIC ENGLAND
£3K + £3K
Downloadable teaching resources for secondary students + Secondary Schools wellbeing project in collaboration with The National Trust, Wallington

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (NETWORKS FOR CHANGE)
£15K
Collaborative research into how teachers use archives in their teaching in archives across the North East

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY (CATHERINE COOKSON)
£1.85K
Get Creative workshops developed with Student Wellbeing for University students

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY (EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND)
£2.5K
Pilot project to develop online resources to aid transition from school to University

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (TEST BED FUND)
£5K
Pilot project to research using archives in the development of oracy and debating skills

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY (BLACK HISTORY MONTH FUND)
£2.6K
Work with HASS to deliver A level workshops on Black Civil Rights in USA using photographs as primary sources
Sharing best practice is at the heart of our work ethos, and the Education Outreach Team actively shares our innovative interventions for school and university students.

**Conferences**
- Newcastle University Learning and Teaching Conference
- Three Rivers Conference & GEM Conference
- Sense of Place & Get Creative Wellbeing Workshops

**Podcasts**
- From Newcastle Series
- Library Education Outreach: From Campus to the Community

**Publications**
- GEM case studies: Collaborative working, bringing together Archives, Museums and Secondary Schools
- The National Archives: Sense of Place – wellbeing for Secondary School students in an historic context

**Social Media**
- Twitter: @nclliboutreach
  - Total number of Twitter followers as of September 2022: 172
OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Wherever possible, we offer opportunities for Newcastle University students to gain work experience by working alongside us.

Two postgraduate studentships funded by the Robinson Bequest: Each worth £3000 for 100 hours of project work per year

Museums, Galleries and Heritage MA Placement students: One student placement, up to 15 days per year

Student Employment on Campus: Four students employed on a casual basis
WANT TO FIND OUR MORE?

www.ncl.ac.uk/library/in-the-community/education-outreach/

lib.outreach@ncl.ac.uk

@nclliboutreach