



NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY EDUCATION
OUTREACH
IMPACT REPORT
2021-2022

OUR MISSION

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.



INTRODUCTION

It is with great pride and pleasure that we share the latest report on the work of Newcastle University Library's Education Outreach team. Taking our unique and distinctive Special Collections & Archives as inspiration, our Outreach Team offers a stimulating programme of project-based learning activities for school and college students. Our projects are designed to empower them to succeed academically whilst also raising their aspirations about their future education and careers.

We offer opportunities for students to 'touch history' and engage with our rare books and archives, piquing their curiosity and widening their horizons. Students get to work alongside lecturers and university students, find out about current research and experience at first-hand what it is like to study at University. They are encouraged to discover and reflect upon links between the subjects they study in school and what they can see in the wider world.

Our activities range far beyond the confines of the classroom – students may find themselves exploring the local countryside, visiting local heritage sites, working in our laboratories, or writing and then presenting their own play in a theatre. These engaging interactions build confidence, enhance their cultural capital and give them the freedom and opportunity to succeed.

Jill Taylor-Roe, Director of Academic Services & University Librarian, September 2022.



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



"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**

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.

[Find out
more on
our website](#)



Creative Writing

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

"It's an amazing adventure."
-Year 10 student

Find out
more on our
website

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.



**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.

Photo by John Donoghue

A-level Research Skills Workshop

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.

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

–Quote from Teacher





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



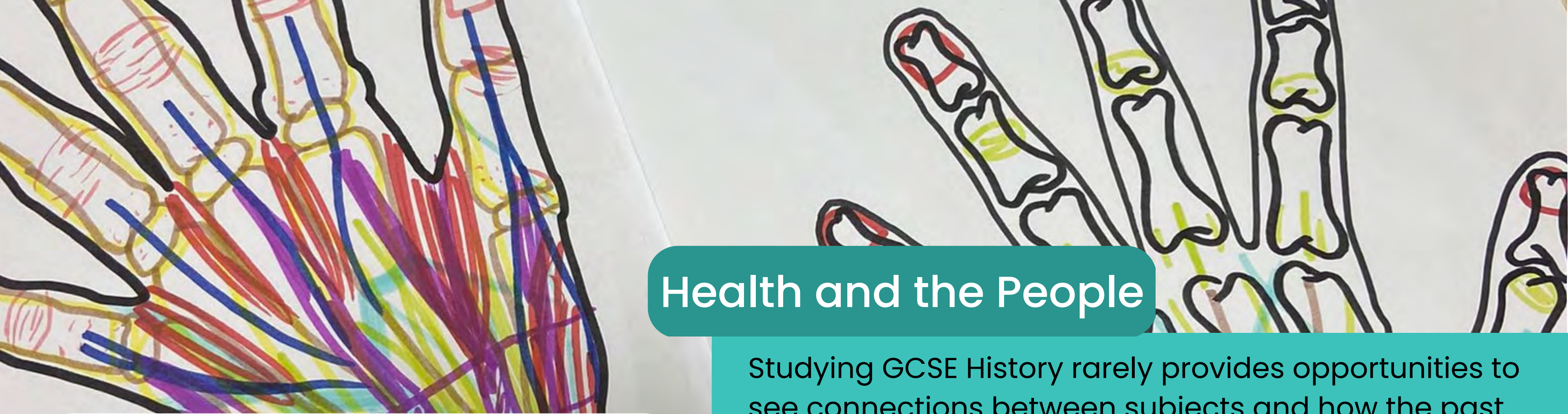
Cracking Cholera

"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

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.





Health and the People

“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

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.

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

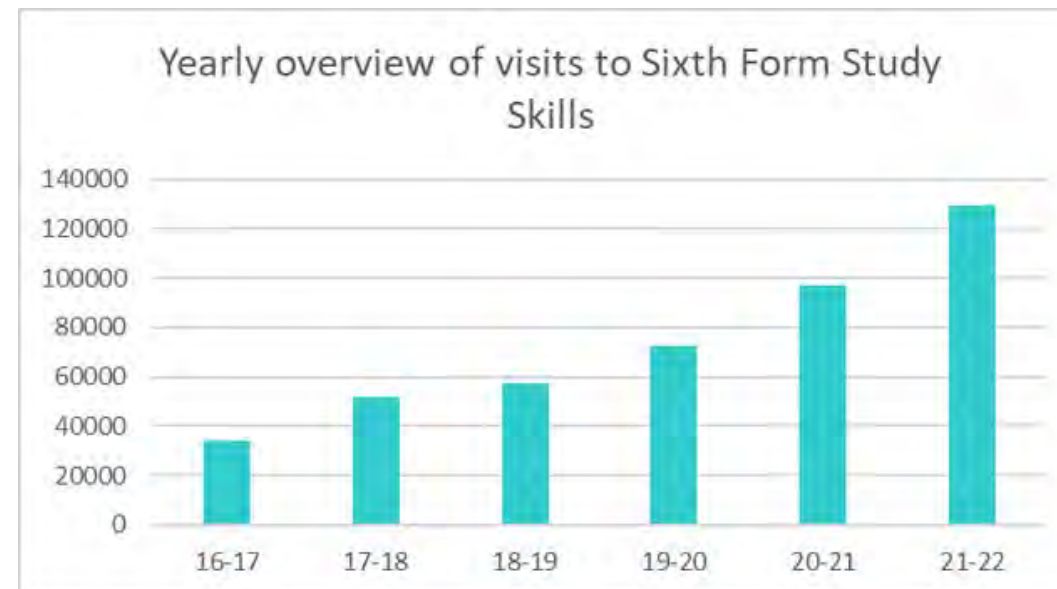
Covid-19 has highlighted the importance of online resources and their ability to reach new audiences. Co-creation has been key to the success of these resources.

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



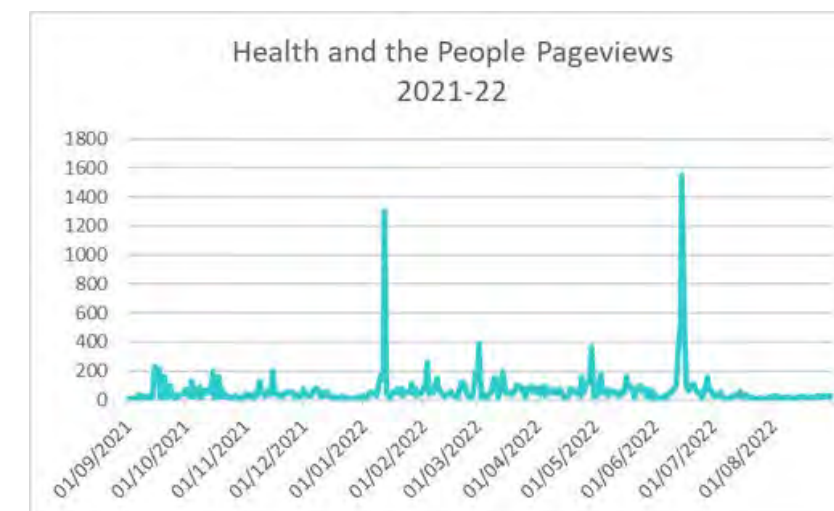
Total No. Visits 2021/22: 23,064
Most Popular Page: Choosing Sides
Longest Time Spent on a Page:
4 minutes 22 seconds



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



FUNDING

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

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

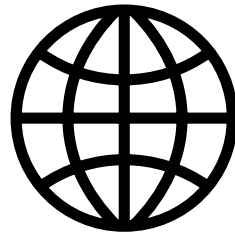
Wherever possible, we offer opportunities for Newcastle University students to gain work experience by working alongside us.

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

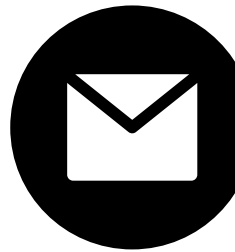
Museums, Galleries and Heritage
MA Placement students:
One student placement,
up to 15 days per year

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](https://twitter.com/nclliboutreach)



