

# Learning Links – building partnership between museums, archives and teachers

**Learning Links** is a professional development placement scheme enabling museum and archive staff and teachers to spend time – a minimum of 3 days - in each others' environment. It is an opportunity to share skills and work together to develop learning resources. Funding is available through MLA's Strategic Commissioning programme to provide for supply cover costs for teachers and associated expenses.

The resources produced through Learning Links have been valuable, but the placements have been as much about gaining an understanding of the everyday experiences and needs of teachers and students, as about the resources themselves:

*'I gained an in-depth insight into the type of material a teacher selects for classroom use and why, plus an understanding of how such material can enhance a lesson especially for mixed ability classes'.* **Museum Manager**

*'Our archive staff will be putting things that they have learnt while visiting school, into practice here. Timings, concentration levels of children and methods for drawing participants into the activity are all high on the agenda'.* **Learning Officer**

The placements have also proved valuable for teachers, raising their awareness of cultural and community resources and giving them breathing space to be creative and resourceful.

More information about Learning Links is available from MLA South West's Cultural Entitlement Development Officers, Jan Horrell and Rachel Bellamy.

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To find out how one museum and secondary school used Learning Links to create resources for the new History GCSE, visit:

[www.mlasouthwest.org.uk/docs/bodmin\\_project.pdf](http://www.mlasouthwest.org.uk/docs/bodmin_project.pdf)