

CARDIFF
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2023/ 2024

SHARE with Schools Annual Report


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Introduction

Share with Schools is a pioneering outreach project from Cardiff University's School of History, Archaeology, and Religion. Created and run by students for students, the project is now in its thirteenth year.



Dr Oliver Davis
Academic Lead

Working closely with partner schools across Cardiff, the project aims to widen participation in higher education for young people from backgrounds with traditionally low university take-up. Undergraduate and postgraduate taught volunteers, led by our team of postgraduate coordinators, work to create and deliver workshops in schools that promote the work of SHARE staff and students, and meet the values of the new Curriculum for Wales. We also offer young people the opportunity to visit the SHARE department, and deliver a range of outreach activities outside the classroom.

This report provides a summary of our work over the 2023 – 2024 academic year, including our outreach activities, workshop development, successful external funding applications, and aims for the future of the project.



Project Aims and Objectives

Widen participation in higher education for young people from backgrounds with traditionally low university take-up.

Boost impact by promoting the exciting and diverse work of SHARE staff and students.

Develop key graduate attributes and enhance employability of SHARE undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.



2023-2024 at a glance...



Below is an overview of some key figures that highlight the types of activities and engagement SHARE with Schools has participated in the last academic year.



4 schools engaged



231 school learners participated



45 student volunteers signed up



1 new logo designed



3 wider engagement & participation events attended



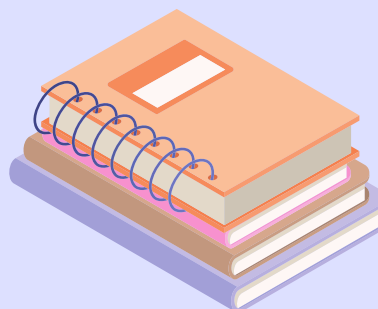
1 new workshop created



£750 awarded by the Classical Association Outreach Grant



1 talk given



3 workshops redeveloped



294 people engaged at wider engagement & participation events

School Outreach

This year SHARE with Schools was able to maintain our longstanding collaboration with Fitzalan and Cathays High Schools, return to Cardiff West High School, and forge new relationships with St John Lloyd Catholic School Young Archaeologists Club.

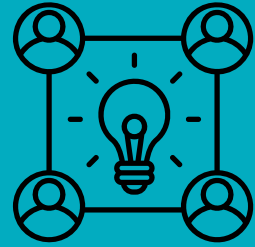


<p>St John Lloyd Catholic School Young Archaeologists Club 4th March 2024</p>	<p>12 Learners engaged</p>	<p>0 UG and PGT volunteers (online)</p>	<p>2 PGR coordinators</p>	<p>1.5 hour Museum Curator workshop delivered</p>
<p>Fitzalan High School 13th March 2024</p>	<p>104 Year 7 learners engaged</p>	<p>5 UG and PGT volunteers</p>	<p>2 PGR coordinators</p>	<p>4 x 1 hr Archaeological Science workshops delivered</p>
<p>Cathays High School 24th April 2024</p>	<p>52 Year 7 & 8 learners engaged</p>	<p>5 UG and PGT volunteers</p>	<p>3 PGR coordinators</p>	<p>2 x 1.5 hour Medieval Society and Turn of the Century Wales workshops delivered</p>
<p>Cardiff West High School 23rd May 2024</p>	<p>48 Year 7 & 8 learners engaged</p>	<p>1 UG and PGT volunteers (online)</p>	<p>4 PGR coordinators</p>	<p>2 x 1 hour Medieval Society and Turn of the Century Wales workshops delivered</p>
<p>Fitzalan High School return visit to SHARE 16th July 2024</p>	<p>17 Year 7 learners engaged</p>	<p>0 UG and PGT volunteers (out of term)</p>	<p>4 PGR coordinators</p>	<p>Mini Welsh history lecture by Dr Marion Loeffler Tour of conservation labs with Dr Eric Nordgren 1 hour Mesopotamian Society workshop University life Q&A session</p>

Delivering high quality and thought-provoking outreach opportunities for young people, widening participation, and enhancing graduate attributes through our school engagement programme continue to be the core objectives for Share with Schools.

Wider Engagement & Participation

SHARE with Schools has been involved in a wide variety of events outside of the classroom in 2023–2024. These have ranged from stalls at festivals to involvement in roundtables and delivering talks. These events provided the opportunity to increase impact and engagement beyond our usual partner schools, as well as strengthen relationships with university colleagues and external organisations.



Future Civic Mission Seminar November 2023

- Participated in a civic mission focus group, led by Strategic Planning, as part of 'The Big Conversation'.
- Engaged in discussions with colleagues from Grangetown Pavilion, Geography, Mathematics and more.
- Discussed 'what is civic mission?', considering its place in Cardiff University, helping in SHARE with Schools planning.

Be a Scientist Festival February 2024

- Invited by Susan Monkton (Public Engagement and Civic Mission Officer) – funded coordinator time and provided materials.
- Activities included stable isotope analysis for diet, XRF pigment analysis colour by numbers and pottery rim sherd measuring.
- Represented 'non-traditional' science at the event, reaching a wider audience.
- 134 people engaged with our activities.

Grangetown Careers Festival February 2024

- Engaged with 23 young people, adults and families through object handling activities.
- Encouraged discussion about careers in history and archaeology and routes to study at university.
- Continued our relationships with civic mission groups around the university.
- Engaged with the local community.

Primary School Graduation June 2024

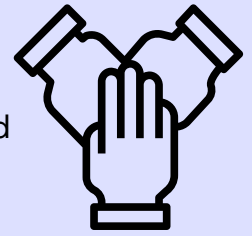
- Invited by Sue Diment (Education Partnerships Manager) to run an activity at the graduation for the 'Passport to the City' scheme.
- 137 year 5s and 6s from Windsor Clive, Willowbrook and St Mary the Virgin took part in making their own Mesopotamian cylinder seals.

SHAREing Showcase June 2024

- Gave a 5-minute lightning talk at the 'SHAREing Showcase' on using gamification and creative activities to promote widening participation by engaging young people in research.
- Represented 'schools' outreach in a sandbox session, discussing ideas with staff and the central *Impact and Engagement* team.
- Facilitated networking, collaboration, and future secondment opportunities.



Supporting volunteers



SHARE with Schools would not be possible without an enthusiastic and dedicated team of volunteers. The project provides SHARE students with valuable in-classroom experience and opportunities to gain skills in outreach and engagement.

We aim to develop student employability and graduate attributes through a range of methods such as:

- Communicating research to diverse audiences.
- Working as part of team.
- Reflecting on the success of outreach and where there is room for improvement.



Volunteer recruitment

This year we held a taster event to showcase the project and allow prospective volunteers to speak to coordinators about the opportunities on offer.

The event was a huge success, with 45 students signing up to the project: a 60% increase on the previous year.

Volunteers week

We celebrated volunteers week by holding a 'Crafternoon' event. This gave volunteers the opportunity to socialise with one another and the SWS team, and contribute to the development of workshop activities.



Volunteer-led activity development

The team created a collection of resources to support future volunteers in developing their own workshop and activities. Students will be guided by project coordinators throughout this process, which we will roll out next academic year.



Workshop and Activity Development

This year the coordinator team invested in redeveloping some existing workshops. Using teacher and learner feedback from previous deliveries, activities were updated to promote engagement and better align with the Welsh curriculum.



We also created a new workshop on Mesopotamian Society, supported by a grant from the Classical Association.

Medieval Society

We redeveloped this existing workshop to include gamified activities such as a role-play game where students experience a year in a life a medieval peasant. This is fun for learners, thereby increasing engagement, but also promotes differentiation allowing a wide variety of learners to access the content.



Turn of the Century Wales

In this workshop, learners use primary sources such as artefacts, photographs, legal documents, and news media to create a museum exhibition proposal on the life of a person from late 19th–early 20th century South Wales. They are encouraged to think critically about different types of evidence, and compare and contrast their findings to life today.



Mesopotamian Society

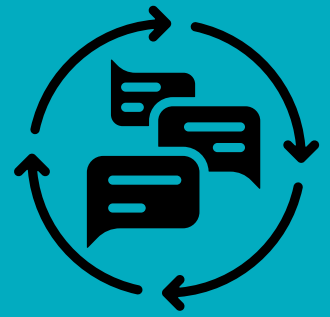
This new workshop includes a range of creative activities to learn about Mesopotamian society. These includes learners making their own Persian 'tribute' and clay cylinder seals, exploring ideas of identity in the past and present.



Classical Association Grant

We are grateful to have been awarded a Classical Association outreach grant of £750 to develop a new workshop on Mesopotamian Society.

Feedback and Impact



We collect written and verbal feedback from school learners, teachers, event participants, and volunteers in order to reflect on the project's impact and continually update our offer accordingly.

LEARNER FEEDBACK

"I loved that we had activities and games."

"One thing that was fun in this lesson was the research we did – not do on phones but with the ancient artefacts they gave us."

"I liked seeing the artefacts and I loved using deduction to find out who it was."

TEACHER FEEDBACK

"Excellent run with all members leading tasks working/engaging all students and were more than happy to answer and explain anything. Clear to see all students enjoyed the workshop!"

"The pupils enjoying meeting 'real life' archaeologists. Also the way in which the session supports our studies (we have been trying to include archaeology in our new curriculum)."



VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

"I think SHARE with Schools is ran brilliantly and the volunteers get a lot of guidance and support the whole way through."

"I have personally gained so much experience and skills via SHARE with Schools that I would not have gained elsewhere. It's a fantastic project run by fantastic people. Keep up the amazing work guys!!"

A recurring theme in the feedback we received was how activities were fun, engaging, and suitable for a wide range of abilities.

Looking ahead to 2024-2025

Moving forward into the next academic year, SHARE with Schools has new team members joining as well a variety of collaborations lined up, alongside our usual school visits and return visits to the university.



New PG Coordinators

At the end of this academic year we say goodbye to Meredith and Kelly after 3 years of working in the team.

As a team, working with SHARE Careers Advisor Kirsty Osman, the posts were advertised to SHARE PGT and PGR students. 4 interviews were conducted with three positions filled.

Three new PG coordinators are Cecil Hall, Buffy Revell and Natalie Pascoe. Congratulations to them!

Potential future Collaborations

Over the next academic year we are working towards strengthening external collaborations:

- **'Passport to the City' Project** for visits with primary schools.
- **CAER Heritage** for small group sessions.

Tweeting the War

In the autumn semester of 2024, three coordinators will be seconded to this project working with Dr Maria Fragoulaki and Dr Tereza Spilioti funded by through Cardiff University AHSS Research Leave Scheme.

Tweeting the War will work with a local secondary school and aims to develop learner's media literacy skills and to critically engage with ancient history through a range of activities both at school and during a university visit.



Acknowledgements for 2023-2024

SHARE with schools would like to thank those who supported our project this year:

- Our volunteers!
- Our schools and their teachers
 - Adrian Smith
 - Michael Knight
 - Daisy Sharp
 - Abby Johnson
 - Julia Roberts
- School of History Archaeology and Religion
- The Classical Association
- Kirsty Harding
- Kirsty Osman
- Marion Loeffler
- Eric Nordgren
- Sue Diment
- Susan Monkton
- Mayu Crowther
- Matthew Cassidy
- SHARE participate team