

How SONY PlayStation has forged links with local schools and their heritage museum



Treasured Possessions

A group of 7 to 11 year olds from Hawes Primary School have taken part in a project at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority owned Museum teamed up with the Yorkshire and Humber Grid for Learning for the pilot scheme. Children were asked to think about what's special to them, which things may become treasured possessions in the 21st Century and what the Dales Countryside Museum should collect today to save for future generations. The children chose things they thought were special in the Museum. They also interviewed their families about the things that are special to them. The interviews and research were used to produce work in a range of different mediums including drawings, stories, poetry, oral history recordings and digital stories. These were all used to create a Second Sight experience.

Cultural Olympiad

The work was displayed in the Treasured Possessions exhibition during February and March 2011 and will be shown again in 2012 as part of the Stories of the World Cultural Olympiad. The

children's enthusiasm was contagious, the museum and teaching staff got to grips with the PSPs very quickly. The museum manager, Fiona Rosher, said "it's all about helping school children to create their own unique and fun educational experience"



Museum Trail & Virtual Tour

Each class member used the PSPs to create a trail around the museum of their favourite museum objects and was asked to include their own research material. More information can be found on the DCM website. <http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/index/outandabout/se/dcm/treasuredpossessions.htm>



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The children and staff were very enthusiastic and became thoroughly engaged in creating work that could be triggered on the PSP with the Second Sight markers. Incidental learning was seen; the children liked ‘not having to do any writing’, and didn’t perceive creating a Word Document, as work! Excellent behaviour and responsible use of the PSP machines was seen at all times. Children were very eager to share their knowledge and skilful use of the machines to other less able (older!) people. Museum staff, not usually connected with education have enjoyed hearing the children as they have moved around the museum, and have stated how nice it has been to hear the children talking to each other about the exhibits. Excellent relationships were built with the teaching staff of the school that will hopefully continue.

Local associations

Children now feel the museum and associated local Dales heritage belongs to them and confidently talk about it at home. One little girl wants to come and work at the museum when she is retired! To mark the end of the project an

open evening was held at the museum giving the children the opportunity to show their parents, grandparents and Friends of the Dales Countryside Museum the work they have created and displayed themselves in the Treasured exhibition. The children decorated cakes with icing ‘markers’ and helped host the evening. This highly successful evening celebrated the work the children have put into the project and enabled the museum to engage with families that have never seen or rarely visit the museum. Fiona said that “the project has been a fabulous way of introducing them to the museum, giving them ownership in and instilling an enthusiasm for investigating their heritage. Please take a look at the video for more details

<http://shareit.yhgfl.net/ene/ws/?p=1965>

Next steps

The museum can now see how the PSPs and Second Sight can be incorporated into the museum visits, educational workshops and hopes to use the PSP project to add sound and visual information to galleries. Local schools can also use PSPs to link back media to the museum too.

