School and Group Visits at Bucks County Museum
and Roald Dahl Children’s Gallery
Workshop Curriculum Links

Victorian Crime and Punishment: Year 6

Workshop Outline
(All timings are approximate)

20 minutes - introduction
The Learning Team will explain that the focus during the workshop will be on the difference between rich and poor; as in Victorian times, this dictated how society, and the law, treated you. They will compare three Victorian inventions, the light bulb, the telephone and the camera, to the gadgets we take for granted today to show how much has changed in the last 200 years.

10 minutes – wants, needs and rights
The children are led through an activity to help them focus on the difference between what they want, what they need and what their rights are. This simple activity really helps the children focus on how what they want is very different from what they need and what they have the right to.

15 minutes - Aylesbury’s hidden poor
The children are given time to look at panels of the receiving books from Aylesbury Gaol, detailing individuals arrest records, complete with photos. There will then be some discussion about whether they think the crimes were justified and if the punishments were fair.

10 minutes - introduction to The Jury
The Learning Team will give a short introduction to the story behind the painting by John Morgan, an artist who lived in Aylesbury in the 1860s and used local people as his sitters for this painting. There will also be discussions comparing it to a more recent interpretation by The Guardian cartoonist, Ros Asquith. We will also explore what a jury is and how it works.

25 minutes – re-enactment of the Trial of The Silver Spoon Theft at Princess Risborough, 29th December 1860
Based on a newspaper report from 9th March 1861, which reported exactly what people said in court, the children will work through a script of a real trial and then decide the fate of the accused…

10 minutes - plenary
The children will be asked how they feel about what they have learnt during the workshop and what they would have rather been in Victorian times – rich or poor. This is also a chance for a recap of thing learnt during the workshop and an opportunity for the children to ask any further questions they may have.

Curriculum Links
★ History
- Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history,
- Connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
- Study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils’ chronological knowledge beyond 1066