

Case Study: Shabtis in Schools, 2018-19

Shabtis in Schools is an award-winning, "ground-breaking engagement" between museum curators, learning experts, and Manchester educators, developing whole-school activity around an ancient Egyptian '*shabti*' displayed in each school.

Outputs

- Five schools in Greater Manchester displayed a *shabti*, reaching over 5,000 pupils, with all schools reporting engagement with pupils at all levels (including Gifted & Talented, and those with additional educational needs)
- As a result of the CPD offered, teachers involved reported higher confidence levels in the subject area, and development of skills in cross-curricular planning
- Extended collaborative working between the Museum and participating schools resulted in multi-beneficial partnerships and whole-school initiatives
- The *shabti* in school allowed teachers to increase the depth of learning for their pupils and raised the profile of history within school
- Positive school image through Museum partnership working and exclusivity of hosting a genuine ancient artefact (for example, local media coverage and local politicians attending opening events)
- Increase in parental involvement in school activity

Legacy

- Museum referenced in one school's OFSTED report supporting the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development effectively.
- Greater take up for Ancient History GCSE in one high school.
- Resource packs for *shabtis* and supportive learning materials created for future use (for example, translations of hieroglyphs and introductory videos)
- A 'Making a Difference' Award from the University of Manchester

Quotes

"I'd say it's a fantastic hook, and it offers so many opportunities to use as a stimulus for enquiry, not just in history, but there's so many other options [like] philosophical debates, writing historical fiction about it. There's all this discovery that children can have and I think that's a really exciting thing" – Heald Place Primary School teacher

"I think it has engaged all our pupils and it has created learning opportunities to develop those key skills, research, that analysis, that evaluation, which are skills they need in all subjects ... This experience with the shabti is something these children will tell their grandchildren" - Parrs Wood High School Teacher

Photographs



Pupils from Newall Green High School with their *shabti* in the school library



Pupils from Newall Green High School with their *shabti* and Museum Staff

MANCHESTER MUSEUM



Parrs Wood High School's *shabti* display



Abraham Moss Community Primary's *shabti* display



Teachers on the CPD and collaborative planning day



Heald Place Primary School complimented their *shabti* installation with a pupil-led exhibition in the Inflatible Museum