

DEVONSHIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST



2017 & 2018 BIENNIAL REVIEW

‘We provide diverse educational opportunities and activities across the Devonshire Group that are accessible and relevant to a broad range of people.’

*Devonshire Educational Trust
– Mission Statement*





The Devonshire Educational Trust (DET), an independent charity, was established in 2004 to enhance the educational experiences of children and young people visiting the Chatsworth Estate in Derbyshire and Bolton Abbey in Yorkshire.

Through guided, self-guided and specialist education packages, DET provides quality learning experiences that reach and inspire all backgrounds and abilities. DET uses the estates' resources to engage young minds; delivering a range of educational activities at Chatsworth in the house, garden, farmyard and across both estates. In addition, we run a series of projects designed to support a range of learning needs for groups, including children in care, refugees, young carers and adult learners.

It has been a busy two years for DET, with a number of new projects getting underway and the addition of new team members. DET has always provided arts education, but in the last few years a designated post holder, working closely with the Collections team, has developed a programme supporting art in the

curriculum. This has been boosted by the opening of a new learning space, The Old Potting Shed; opened by HRH The Princess Royal in October 2018, and with generous support from the Chatsworth House Trust, the Derbyshire Charity Clay Shoot, the Duke of Devonshire's Charitable Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation and those who wish to remain anonymous.

2018 was the first full year of learning provision at Bolton Abbey and our reputation for outdoor learning at Chatsworth was enhanced by support from the Ernest Cook Trust (see page 9). With new posts, programmes and spaces, this is a good moment to review our past successes and ways of working, and to devise an ambitious new strategy for the future.

AN OVERVIEW OF OUR LEARNING OFFER



Across the Chatsworth and Bolton Abbey estates, a range of learning tours and activities are offered throughout the year.

At **Chatsworth** groups can choose to visit one or more areas within the site; either self-guided or selecting from a range of curriculum-linked interactive talks, tours and activities.

- In the **house**, groups can take a journey full of tales about the people and objects that have shaped Chatsworth's history. Options for primary, secondary, further and higher education pupils and students are available.
- There are 105 acres of **garden** to explore; to learn about its history or focus on particular elements to support specific areas of study.
- Our **farmyard** engages pupils and teachers in a range of curriculum-linked tours and activities, connecting the farm animals and their lifecycles with the animal products we use and eat. At Christmas, school and family groups can take part in the popular nativity performances.
- The **Stickyard** is the hub for our outdoor learning programme. Pupils can get involved in den building in Stand Wood, learn how plants adapt to different environments and how food is grown in the Kitchen Garden. These sessions connect the rich and varied woodland and garden to a range of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects in the curriculum. The Stickyard also hosts holiday events for families and a range of talks and workshops for adults.
- In 2018, we opened **The Old Potting Shed**. This flexible learning space hosts a range of activities for learners of all ages. Going forward, it will be the base for our advocacy of the role of art and creativity in education.

At **Bolton Abbey** in Yorkshire, groups can visit the ruins of the abbey or explore the river and surrounding nature trails for a self-guided or facilitated learning experience. The estate and its story promote history, geography, science and religious education.

EDUCATIONAL VISITOR NUMBERS IN 2017 & 2018

Throughout 2017 and 2018 we welcomed a total of 45,000 education visitors across our two sites, Chatsworth and Bolton Abbey. Educational visitors ranged from pre-school pupils through to higher education and postgraduate students, community groups and adult learners. This total includes self-guided visits and groups taking part in facilitated talks, tours and art or outdoor learning workshops.

Many teams contributed to these learning experiences; Chatsworth's expert Guides and the Farmyard team deliver a range of sessions throughout the year. At Chatsworth, colleagues from the Collections, Garden and Forestry teams also support the DET core learning team.

‘The children really enjoyed the experience of walking through such an amazing house – it has the wow factor and they felt it!’

Teacher, Chuter Ede School



THE OLD POTTING SHED: A NEW LEARNING CENTRE AT CHATSWORTH



In October 2018, HRH The Princess Royal opened our new learning centre, The Old Potting Shed. The historic potting shed was converted through the generous support of Chatsworth House Trust, the Derbyshire Charity Clay Shoot, the Duke of Devonshire's Charitable Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation and those who wish to remain anonymous.

Situated in the heart of the garden, this centre is a modern and flexible learning space featuring two rooms, one of which can cater for a full school class participating in an art workshop or for an adult audience enjoying a presentation. The centre is kitted out with a kitchen area, making it possible to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for groups as well as providing a self-contained space for meetings, training days and conferences. The centre has enhanced the range and quality of our learning programmes and has been used to deliver workshops for schools, sessions with community groups, adult learning courses and launches of various initiatives including the Bumblebee Conservation Trust's new Bumblebee Education Experience.

Looking ahead, The Old Potting Shed will enable us to develop an arts engagement programme for children and adults and also deliver more family learning drop-in sessions over holiday and weekend periods.



Above The Old Potting Shed before and after, and in use for the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust (*below right*)



CHATSWORTH ARTS ENGAGEMENT

House Style: Five Centuries of Fashion at Chatsworth

In 2017 Chatsworth delivered its most ambitious, and eye-catching, exhibition to date – *House Style: Five Centuries of Fashion at Chatsworth*.

The exhibition engaged new education audiences, including fashion and jewellery students. One highlight from this student engagement programme involved final year fashion students from the University of Derby, who were challenged to produce their own designs in response to *House Style*. Lady Burlington (pictured, right) met the students to select designs for display at Chatsworth and invited them to exhibit their handiwork in the Orangery shop for the duration of the exhibition.

We also ran a series of seminars for students. These seminars gave students direct access to experts in luxury jewellery and fashion.

The design competition and seminar programme represented our commitment to supporting the creative industries and skills pipeline through access to real-world, practical experience and direct contact with talented experts.

Chatsworth Renewed: the house past, present and future

In 2018, students from architecture, design and trade courses engaged with *Chatsworth Renewed*, an exhibition marking the completion of the Masterplan, a ten year restoration project. Students from Sheffield Hallam University attended an architecture, surveying and conservation seminar led by Oliver Jessop MCIFA, the archaeological consultant on the Masterplan, which concluded in 2018.

Local students on trade courses supported the exhibition with their own work; trainee joiners at Chesterfield College created seating for the visitor route. Their brief was to design and build seats which fitted the aesthetic of the exhibition, could be moved around with ease and would be sturdy enough to accommodate a high volume of visitors. The resulting seats were used during the exhibition with huge success and will continue to be part of the visitor route.

‘It’s a great privilege for our students to show their creations alongside world famous designers. It’s also a huge opportunity for them to show their designs to those who are going to be coming to Derbyshire to visit the exhibition.’

*Professor Kathryn Mitchell,
Vice-Chancellor of the
University of Derby*



Art Out Loud

Learning content forms part of the annual arts festival every year.

In 2017, sessions led by American sculptor, Jedd Novatt, and musician, Lizzie Ball, were attended by over 100 students and staff from eight secondary schools. Novatt talked about his own practice and led a blind-drawing masterclass, while Ball premièred *Viva La Vida con Frida*, exploring the life and work of Frida Kahlo through images and live music. Over 200 university students and staff attended a panel discussion featuring leaders of the British fashion industry, Christopher Kane and Erdem Moralioglu.

In 2018, the festival opened with an event celebrating ARTiculation, an annual competition designed to provide young people with a platform to express their ideas about art. Secondary school students were welcomed by the Duke and listened to presentations by three alumni of the prize.

Inclusion of ARTiculation on the festival programme demonstrated our commitment to advocating the role of art and creativity in learning.

Sotheby's Success Academy, 2017

With support from Sotheby's, students from *Success Academy High School of the Liberal Arts – Manhattan and Bronx* travelled to London and Chatsworth for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. During their three days at Chatsworth, DET and the Collections team (pictured, right) worked together on a programme for the students. Activities included tours of the house and the sculptures in the garden, and opportunities for the close study of works of art, including Old Master drawings, and to handle selected pieces from the collection.

The programme culminated with the students creating a performance in response to their experiences at Chatsworth, which they presented to an invited audience, including the Duke and Duchess. The visit aimed to build cultural awareness, an understanding of art and history, as well as strong friendships and social cohesion within the group.



‘Chatsworth taught me more about English culture through various sculptures, art pieces, books, and documents than any history class ever could.’

10th Grade Sotheby's Success Academy student

Christmas at Chatsworth, 2018

The Christmas 2018 theme, *Once Upon A Time...*, provided inspiration for a series of art workshops for schools. Making the most of our new learning space, The Old Potting Shed, a series of sessions for primary schools investigated the creative processes involved in children's books, films and animations. Pupils used a range of media to explore character development and how we relate to the attributes of our favourite story-book and film characters.

The students were introduced to characters, including Beatrix Potter's *Peter Rabbit* and *Jemima Puddle-Duck*, and Quentin Blake's illustrations for Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*; all of which featured in *Once Upon A Time...* Concentrating on use of imagination, lateral thinking and expressing ideas through visual means, the pupils created their own characters. Sessions were designed to promote visual literacy and build creative confidence while developing new skills.



View of installation for *James and the Giant Peach*, Christmas 2018

OUTDOOR LEARNING



In 2017 and 2018 we consolidated our reputation for outdoor learning thanks to generous support from the Ernest Cook Trust. This education charity encourages children and young people to learn from the land through free-of-charge education programmes on its estates and by giving grants. The Trust, with whom we have worked since 2016, has funded a three-year Outdoor Education Officer post and the first holder, Nicola Spence, took up this role in February 2017. Since then, she has engaged over 3,000 participants in outdoor learning sessions, including groups from children's centres, schools, teachers and trainee teachers. A further 4,000 took part in drop-in events for families during the school holidays.

At Chatsworth, most of this engagement is based in our designated outdoor learning space, the Stickyard, which won the Best Non-Residential Scheme award at the 2018 Peak District Annual Planning Awards.



In 2018, a new session, *Chatsworth Explorers*, took participants on a voyage of discovery to learn about the Cavendish banana; cultivated at Chatsworth since the 1830s and a significant contributor to global banana production. These *Explorer* sessions combine compass usage and plant identification skills, and were designed to link with aspects of the Key Stage 1 science, history and geography curricula.

RHS Chatsworth Flower Show

The first Royal Horticultural Society Chatsworth Flower Show took place in July 2017. Our interactive learning sessions were a key feature of the outdoor classroom on the showground. In 2018, we included our new *Chatsworth Explorers* session and were joined by education team members from our partner organisation for outdoor learning, the Ernest Cook Trust. As a special addition for the show, participants made their own 'Wardian' cases; an early form of sealed container for the transportation of plants, these cases were vital to enhancing the survival rate of plant specimens subjected to long sea journeys. Through making their own cases (from recycled plastic bottles), pupils learned about the progression of plant science.

Young people from the Derbyshire Virtual School (Derbyshire County Council's service for young people in care) and students from St Clare's Special School in Derby created display walls at the heart of the *Discover & Grow* area of the show. Using plants and recycled materials, these displays decorated the tent and welcomed people into the space.



The Farmyard

The Farmyard has been a centre for learning about rural life and farming since 1973. In 2017 and 2018 the main participants in the Farmyard's schools programme were pre-school and Key Stage 1 and 2 (primary) pupils.

Farmyard tours for schools vary depending on the time of year, due to the seasonal nature of the learning offer. These sessions have been tailored to specific curriculum areas, including science, english and PSHE (personal, social and health education). *New Life and Growth*, *Products and Materials*, and *Caring for Animals* were the most in-demand sessions over the last two years.

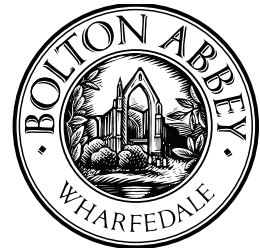
We have also made use of the Chatsworth Estate's bird hide (shown below), which is situated at the edge of a copse of trees beside the Farmyard. The hide was

designed and built by Peak Architects in 2016 for young bird watchers to feel close to the wildlife and observe birds in the surrounding woodland. It has been used throughout 2017-18 as a venue for daily talks on caring for birds and animals, delivered by the Farmyard team.

In May 2018, we piloted a *Heritage Craft Week* during the half-term holiday, as part of our Farmyard family learning offer. The week comprised daily demonstrations and participatory experiences, including the opportunity to have-a-go at dry-stone walling, fly-tying, willow weaving, spinning and weaving wool. Families were also able to view birds of prey close to, and to see a farrier at work. Over 7,500 visitors took part in *Heritage Craft Week*.

‘The students, their teachers and I are so very appreciative of all the hard work from you and your friendly and well-informed team. The students learned so much and so did I. So much of what was communicated was directly related to the syllabus they’re studying.’ *Accompanying adult on a school visit to the Farmyard*





Bolton Abbey (shown below), the Yorkshire seat of the dukes of Devonshire, has been a resource for self-guided learning for many years. Today, the estate team's partnership with the Priory church has enabled the delivery of a valuable cross-curricular experience.

In 2017, an Education Officer post was created specifically for Bolton Abbey; Amy Garrido joined the DET team to build on existing provision and nurture new links with local schools and youth groups. New resources were launched at Bolton Abbey's first Education Preview event in April 2018. Most popular has been the *River Walk*, which links with the geography curriculum and brings to life the work pupils have done

in the classroom. Children take a guided walk to explore a typical example of a meander (the winding curve of the river) and the resulting erosion. Then, using natural materials, they build their own map on the ground; photos of which are used to develop an understanding of maps and landscape when they return to school. These sessions advocate the value of learning outside the classroom while demonstrating cross-curricular links (maths, science, geography, history, PSHE and RE).

2018 was the first full year of facilitated sessions; such has been the demand that a number of assistants have been appointed in order to facilitate increased participation in 2019.



PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH



Derbyshire Believes in Me

Derbyshire County Council holds an annual *Derbyshire Believes in Me* awards evening to recognise the achievements of children in care in the county. In 2017 and 2018, DET presented the award for Achievement in the Arts. This was won by Virtual School students; Alisha Sas in 2017 and Kori Dolby in 2018. Both winners performed at the award ceremonies; Alisha and her social worker, Katy, performed a dance exploring Alisha's journey through the care system, and Kori, who won the award for his contribution to the performing arts, sang a song at the 2018 ceremony.

Christmas Design and Technology Project

Students from Netherthorpe Secondary School and Buxton Community School, took part in our annual Design and Technology Project. Over a series of visits in 2018, students were introduced to the house and its contents, and spent time with the retail team, to gain an understanding of high-performing products and their selling prices. Back at school, they were challenged to respond to a retail brief and then returned to Chatsworth to present a product pitch. The Chatsworth buyers selected some of their products and the students set about production. Their wooden Christmas decorations (shown below) were sold in the Orangery shop – and many had sold out before mid-December!



‘We brought a group from our *Creative English* for women with English as an additional language course. It was a wonderful day - so much appreciated by all the group. We were made very welcome and the subsidy meant that an otherwise inaccessible venue became accessible for these ladies. Thank you.’

Staff member, The Furnival, Sheffield

Hartington Fund

In 2017 and 2018, over 2,000 individuals visited Chatsworth or Bolton Abbey with the support of the Hartington Fund, which we use to subsidise travel and entry tickets, thus supporting an inclusive approach to participation. Among the groups who benefitted from this support were schools with above national average levels of pupil premium, special educational needs, English as an additional language and black, Asian or minority ethnic pupils. The fund was also used to support visits from children’s centres and clubs and a community organisation specialising in supporting the education and wellbeing of families local to Chatsworth.

Virtual Schools – supporting children in care

In 2017 and 2018 we continued to work with Derbyshire County Council’s Virtual School with whom we have been in partnership since 2012. The 2017 exhibition, *House Style*, provided inspiration for young people and their art teachers who explored the design elements of the exhibition and, working with a Virtual School creative mentor, designed clothing and kept creative journals. They took part in a two-hour challenge to produce an item to dress a mannequin. Another task involved students and their mentors in the design and production of a dress made from natural materials collected in the Chatsworth Garden. The project (pictured below) lasted a number of weeks; students developed creative skills and boosted their confidence and motivation.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019

In 2019 we will launch a new learning programme

The programme will encompass learning programmes at Chatsworth and at Bolton Abbey. We will also develop a community engagement programme to be delivered in collaboration with colleagues across the estates.

We will be running campaigns to deliver:

- Sustained outreach programmes to support the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show in June and the *Chatsworth Arts Festival* (formerly *Art Out Loud*) in September.
- *Get Drawing At Chatsworth*: Using the Old Potting Shed as a drawing hub, we will be running a year-round learning campaign based on drawing as a tool; not just to develop creativity and skills, but also as a means to appreciate the artistic and natural environment in which Chatsworth is situated. We will be introducing drawing-based workshops for schools, students and, as the year progresses, new adult learning workshops too. And we will be taking part in the *Big Draw* – the world's largest drawing festival – in October.
- A new outdoor learning zone based at the Stickyard and encompassing the Kitchen Garden, orchard and renewable energy centre. Working with the Garden team and members of the local community, this will feature bee- and pollination-related interpretation designed with children and their parents or carers in mind.

We will be working in partnership with the University of Derby:

- To broaden the reach of our learning programme with schools and teachers, and to develop an impact and evidence portfolio.

At Chatsworth we will:

- Produce a digital learning resource to support aspects of the A-level art history specification and make a selection of our Old Master drawings accessible for study.
- Add new outdoor learning sessions to our programme; *Tree Detectives* and *Plant Adaptation and Classification* will link to the maths and science curricula for different key stages and will be designed to showcase specific characteristics of the woodland and garden at Chatsworth.
- Launch new art workshops based on art and nature, sculpture, printmaking, and art movements through history.

At Bolton Abbey we will:

- Increase our reach to schools from the local rural and urban areas, through the addition of further assistants and volunteers to the learning team.
- Deliver two new sessions designed for children to use their senses to explore the natural environment. *Terrific Trees* will teach younger children to identify trees using leaves, buds and bark, and use mirrors and magnifying glasses to explore the trees further. Older children will learn how to calculate the age of a tree by measuring height and girth. In *Outdoor Poetry and Creative Writing*, children will follow in the footsteps of William Wordsworth, who was inspired by his visits to Bolton Abbey. Using alliteration and personification, pupils will play with language to describe the natural world and the Priory.

WHO WE ARE

DET Trustees

Lord Burlington (Chair of the Trustees)
The Duke of Devonshire
Peter Bostock Esq (retired May 2018)
Dr Dianne Jeffrey
Mrs Emma Sayer
Dan Waller Esq (from May 2018)

DET Employees as at 31 December 2018

Gill Hart, Head of Devonshire Educational Trust
(since November 2018)

Chatsworth Learning team

Kerry Fernandez, Arts Engagement Officer
(since September 2018)

Helen Frith, Education Assistant

Rachel Parkin, Education Coordinator

Nicola Spence, Outdoor Education Officer

Bolton Abbey Learning team

Amy Garrido, Education Officer,
(since September 2017)

Bolton Abbey Learning team additions November 2018

Abby Box, Education Assistant

Kim Crawford, Education Assistant

Kate Hemming, Education Assistant

Deborah Sugden, Education Assistant

DET Volunteers

Sue Addison (Chatsworth)

Kerry Shoesmith (Bolton Abbey)

Di Spensley (Bolton Abbey)

Allison Taylor (Bolton Abbey)

Janet Vorster (Bolton Abbey)



The DET is deeply grateful to all of our supporters over the last two years:

Derbyshire Charity Clay Shoot
Duke of Devonshire's Charitable Trust
Ernest Cook Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Holdsworth Foods
Sotheby's

And those who wish to remain anonymous.

For more information about the work of the DET, please contact education@chatsworth.org or visit www.chatsworth.org/education

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