

Education Coaching Programme 2019

Case Study: Perth & Kinross Archive, Perth

Perth and Kinross Archive had developed a learning module for high school students based on the WW1 letters of John Alex Veitch and wanted to pilot it with a third year class from a local school. Douglas worked with Assistant Archivist Sarah Wilcock to deliver the drama process element of the module in which students took the roles of characters from John Alex's life, created still images and voiced their thoughts.

They went on to develop Sarah's next project, a secondary schools learning unit about the history of crime and punishment in Scotland, using local archive records as sources.

What has been the material outcome of the Education Coaching Programme input for your service?

As a result of the 2019 SCA Education Coaching Programme the Perth & Kinross Archive now has a structured Archive Education Resource with its first complete resource pack that has been successfully piloted to two local high schools, and a second resource pack in development.

Our first resource **'The Experience of a First World War Soldier'** is aimed at S3 History pupils and contains:

- *structured lesson plans for four workshops with activities, identified learning outcomes and links to the Curriculum for Excellence*
- *resources from the collection of First World War Soldier John Alex Veitch (MS232) with copies of original documents and transcripts that pupils use for primary source research*
- *an optional fifth workshop that invites pupils to develop a creative response to the resource with a completed outcome in the form of a 30 minute film of young actors recording some of the Veitch letters*

This resource was created as part of the 2018 SCA Education Coaching Programme but was piloted and revised



John Alex Veitch, 1917
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"The major success of the Resource for my class was that it engaged pupils who on occasion find it difficult to be fully engaged. Pupils who prior to the visit would rather keep their thoughts/ideas to themselves or share them one-to-one, were reading the letters aloud on the visit. One benefit that cannot be overlooked, however, is that the resource educated the pupils about what archives were and how many are available about a topic such as the Great War."

– Miss Senkel, St John's RC Academy, Perth

“One thing I found interesting was looking at the different documents of information because seeing the real thing gives more emotion and interest than notes from a booklet.”

– St John’s RC High School pupil

“I enjoyed looking at the old letters because we got to see how people used to communicate and how language has changed. I also enjoyed how some drama skills were added into the workshop because it gave us another way to engage in the task.”

– St John’s RC High School pupil

“I found out a lot about our local ancestors. I enjoyed the drama.”

– Pitlochry HS pupil

“Pupils really benefit seeing where the resources are stored as it plants a seed for the future when they might use Archives again. Great for them to see how important the documents are and how they are cared for. It really brought things to life. The way you brought the sources together to paint a picture which unfolded in front of the class was really good.”

– Ms Robertson, Pitlochry High School

“Learning about someone from Pitlochry specifically.”

– Pitlochry HS pupil

as part of the 2019 programme.

Feedback from both teachers and pupils has been constructive and positive.

Our second resource pack ‘**Crime and Punishment through the Records**’ is aimed at S3 Modern Studies pupils and contains:

- *structured lesson plans for two workshops with activities, identified learning outcomes and links to the Curriculum for Excellence*
- *resources from the Perth Burgh Records sentences and death warrants (B59/26/11) and Perthshire and Kinross-shire Constabulary records (POL1) with copies of original documents and transcripts that pupils use for primary source research*

This resource was created as part of the 2019 coaching programme. It is still in development and will be ready to offer to schools for the 2020-21 school year. *(This is likely to be put on hold because of the Covid-19 outbreak).*

What skills, expertise or other professional development have you acquired as a result of the Coaching Programme?

Prior to the SCA Education Coaching Programme I had no experience of creating educational resources for schools. As a result of Douglas’s coaching I am now:

- *more knowledgeable and have a better understanding of the Curriculum for Excellence*
- *able to use the lesson plan structure to identify activities and learning outcomes to create a positive and rewarding learning experience*
- *confident in my delivery of workshops to classes both in the Archive and in the classroom*
- *confident in delivering drama-based activities*
- *able to direct a recording session and edit the footage using audio software*

The SCA coaching has been invaluable to my professional development by further developing my decision making and problem-solving skills and

increasing my confidence in the delivery of our education programme and the rest of the archive outreach programme as well.

What do you feel is the wider benefit of these outcomes and skills to your archive service?

In the past the Perth & Kinross Archive's education offer has focused on class visits to the Archive where pupils were given a general introduction to archives, a tour of the strong-room and an opportunity to look at a small display of records. While these sessions were popular, and feedback was always good, they involved a lot of staff time and could be disruptive to the search-room.

We also felt that they were not making a meaningful contribution to the learning experience because the visits were not tailored to the school's curriculum.

Since developing the Archive Education Resource with Douglas I am now confident that the Archive can offer schools a structured and valuable learning experience. By proactively approaching the schools with an education programme that focuses on the strengths of our collection and meets the needs of the curriculum we can

- *manage teachers' expectations*
- *provide pupils with a unique and engaging learning experience*
- *deliver focused sessions with a confident and knowledgeable member of staff*
- *reduce the impact on staff time and disruption to the rest of the archive service*

With the help of the SCA Education Programme we are able to meet several of the Culture Perth & Kinross key strategic objectives for our service:

- *To increase access to, and develop new audiences for, our services and collections*
- *To use cultural experiences and services to help address inequalities and to promote personal growth and development*
- *To engage proactively and creatively with customers, communities and partners*
- *To increase the resilience and sustainability of the organisation*

How do you plan to use the materials and skills gained from the Coaching Programme?

It is my intention to create a comprehensive Archive Education Resource with a range of curriculum-based topics for both primary and secondary schools. I will continue to build on the skills and knowledge gained as a result of the SCA coaching programme to develop these resources. Many of the skills learned through this process will also be transferrable to other aspects of the Archive's outreach and engagement programme in the creation of talks and workshops for continued learning and promoting the work of the Archive service.

For more information about Perth & Kinross Archive visit www.culturepk.org.uk/archive-local-family-history

For information about SCA's Education Coaching Programme visit www.scottisharchives.org.uk/education/archivists/education-coaching-programme