

William Blake Heritage Trail project

Project summary

It is hoped students from Felpham Community College will be awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots scheme to enable them to set up an interactive William Blake Heritage Trail to enable others to discover more about the influential poet.

The students will design interpretation boards to be installed at key locations in Felpham, including Blake's cottage, his church and the Fox Inn, where he was famously arrested. The boards will feature QR codes to link to a website/app that will feature short video interpretations of Blake's life. It is hoped the heritage trail will appeal across the age ranges, attracting older visitors familiar with traditional trails but also younger audiences who will be drawn in by the interactive film elements. As William Blake's work appears on new English Literature GCE specifications, it is believed the trail will have broad appeal to both teachers and their students.

It is expected between 10 and 20 students aged 16 – 19 will be involved in the production of the interactive materials, giving them the opportunity to build valuable transferable skills. Students will learn about the importance of teamwork and how to work to deadlines and specific briefs; they will also acquire research skills in addition to media production skills such as directing, presenting and editing. This will help to meet key Ofsted requirements in relation to the government's employability agenda.

An external co-ordinator (Steve Murray) will be the main contact for the project and co-ordinate the various on-going elements. Dan Musty, of Millstream Productions, will be responsible for overseeing the production of the film excerpts. He will provide week to week support during the production process and be responsible for facilitating shoots. A graphic/web designer will be responsible for overseeing the design of the interpretation boards and the accompanying leaflet and website, mentoring students to produce these materials.

Rachel Searle has agreed to be the college's nominated staff member for the the project. Other staff at Felpham Community College will not be expected to manage or contribute to the project unless they wish to do so.

Students' academic work will not be affected, but they will gain an enormous amount, for example, students working on previous similar projects have received university offers based on their participation.

If funding is granted, work on the project will begin in January 2016 with a celebration launch event planned for September 2016. It is expected the college will receive significant positive media attention.

Please click on the links below to view previous Heritage Lottery Funded projects featuring films produced under the mentorship of Millstream Productions:

<https://youtu.be/zpA8BKBploY> - Soames' War film

<https://vimeo.com/67193168> - Soames' War 'making of film'

<https://youtu.be/4G4H-IIA9Eo> - South Today live link to Soames' War.

<https://vimeo.com/132821460> - War on the Waves film

<https://vimeo.com/132706277> - War on the Waves 'making of' film

<https://vimeo.com/99613872> - Havant's Heroes documentary

<https://vimeo.com/98748116> - Havant's Heroes 'making of film'

School commitment

- The school will be the official applicant. While the project will be run by an external co-ordinator, the budget will need to sit within the finance department with invoices submitted and approved by the co-ordinator.
- Weekly project meetings with students will run during Wednesday afternoon enrichment. The use of a room with internet access will be required. The sessions will be run by Dan Musty, of Millstream Productions, Steve Murray, project co-ordinator, and Rachel Searle. No other staff involvement is necessary although staff are welcome to participate.
- Key students will be required to participate in some heritage visits, including a trip to the West Sussex County Archives and a trip to London. These trips will be scheduled to minimise student absence from school.
- Access to a room for production skills workshops will be required during the Easter break in preparation for the film shoot.
- While meetings will be co-ordinated externally, it would be useful if appropriate staff could remind students of meeting times and dates throughout the duration of the project.
- The film shoots will take place in the summer term after the conclusion of the summer exam series to avoid impacting on this crucial time of year.

All adults working on the project are DBS checked and Millstream Productions has £10m public liability cover.