

# GCSE: 2019

## GCSE Offer

Crime & Punishment Day  
What the Dickens Day  
Social Justice in C19th

AWARD-WINNING LEARNING



Come to Ripon Museums for a high-quality learning experience which stimulates pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence and develop judgement. We are lucky to have three museums in our group, all important Victorian institutions - a Workhouse, a Prison and Police Station and a Courthouse, all in their original buildings. Our workshops make the most of this atmospheric environment with dramatic role-play and hands-on activities:

Curriculum links : History - thinking critically, weighing evidence, develop judgement. Historical concepts of continuity, change, cause, consequence, significance and similarity and difference within situations, allow comparisons to be made between different periods of history (Crime & Punishment). Conditions of living - rich and poor. Significant turning point in British History - Poor Laws, factories. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Citizenship.



Our price per pupil is £10 per day. Teachers and adult helpers are free. We can provide indoor space for lunch and a risk assessment for all visits. Pre-visiting is encouraged. For further information or to make a booking, please contact:

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# Crime & Punishment Day

This is a three museum experience, which takes place in our Victorian Workhouse, Georgian Courthouse with original dock, witness boxes, jury section and magistrates' bench and our Regency Prison & Police museums.

## **1st session:** At the Workhouse Museum

An enquiry-led investigation of a murder at the workhouse, using clues from newspaper reports and the new Victorian detection techniques of fingerprinting, crime scene photography and forensic science, including the test that caught North East of England serial killer, Mary Anne Cotton.

## **2nd session:** At the Courthouse Museum

An historic trial based on newspaper reports of the trial of Elisha Sinkler, celebrity poacher and folk hero which took place at our Courthouse. The trial brings witness statements into question and points up the limits of evidence in Victorian courts. All pupils can take part in the trial as the defendant, clerk of court, magistrate, member of the jury, witness or court reporter. The trial is acted out with a script, costumes etc at the end of the witness statements the class breaks into two groups in separate rooms to discuss whether the trial was fair and decide on a verdict and punishment.

## **3rd session:** At the Prison & Police Museum

- a. Handling session based on early policing and one of the most politically sensitive crimes of the time - poaching. The background to the Sinklers Brothers trial above.
- b. Enquiry-led investigation of prison/punishment in the upstairs cells helped by a prisoner in character.

*"All the staff and students agreed that it was a really great experience....We found the whole day to be much more exciting and interactive than we imagined."*

**St Helens  
College**



# What the Dickens?

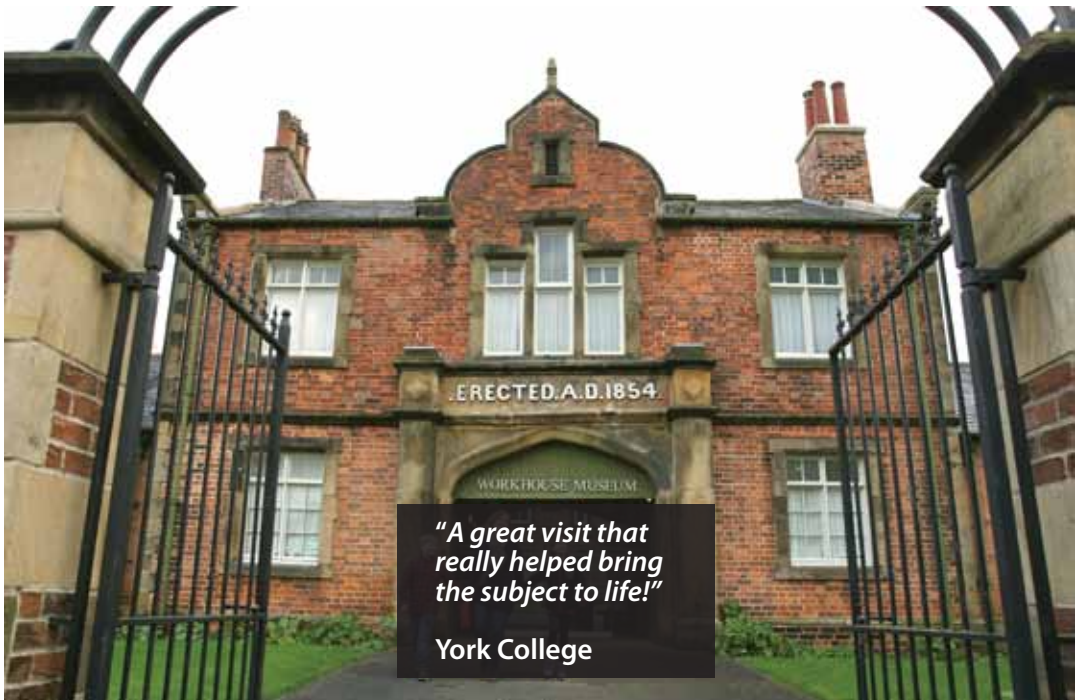
Thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, we were able to buy the Main Block of the Workhouse which we opened to the public in July 2017. We can now provide an even more complete insight into life in a Victorian workhouse as portrayed in Dickens - was it a fair depiction? The grim atmosphere of our Georgian prison recalls

## Morning - Workhouse Experience

After Matron's stern introduction, students go up to the Guardians' Room for the Guardians' role-play. The Guardians were the Board, made up of the good and the great, who oversaw the running of the Workhouse. They were a totally different class from the pauper inmates. The group will split into Guardians and Paupers. The Guardians have to apply the rules of the Workhouse to decide which of the Paupers can be given financial help, who to take into the Workhouse and who receives nothing! This is followed by a hands-on laundry and chores session and tour of the workhouse including the casual ward cells.

## Afternoon - The Prison & Police Museum

- a. Sinkler Role-play with object handling. Telling the story of the arrest and subsequent transportation of local poacher and folk hero Elisha Sinkler to Van Dieman's Land by way of the prison hulks. This provides an insight into Magwitch and his journey,
- b. Doin' Time - Enquiry-led investigation of prison/punishment in the upstairs cells helped by a prisoner in character.



*"A great visit that really helped bring the subject to life!"*

York College



# Social Justice in 19th century Ripon

This is a three-museum experience which takes place in our Workhouse, Courthouse and Prison & Police museums:

## 1. Courthouse Museum

An historic trial in our Courtroom with all its fittings; the original dock, witness boxes, magistrates bench and jury bench. All students can take part in the trial as defendant, Clerk of the Court, magistrate, member of the jury, witness or court reporter. The trial is acted out with a script and costumes and then the class breaks into two groups in separate rooms to discuss whether the trial was fair and decide on a verdict and punishment.

## 2. Workhouse Museum

After Matron's stern introduction, pupils go up to the Guardians' Room for the Guardian role-play. The Guardians were the Board, made up of the good and the great, who oversaw the running of the Workhouse. They were a totally different class from the pauper inmates. The group will split into Guardians and Paupers. The Guardians have to apply the rules of the Workhouse to decide which of the Paupers can be given financial help, who to take into the Workhouse and who receives nothing.

This is followed by a session of hard work in the Workhouse Laundry.

## 3. Prison & Police Museum

- a. ***Sinkler Brothers role-play and object handling.*** This is the story of notorious poachers and folk heroes, John and Elisha Sinkler. Handling session based on early policing and one of the most politically sensitive crimes of the time - poaching.
- b. ***Doin' Time.*** A tour of the cells which completes the story of the Sinkler Brothers and also introduces other forms of punishment - public shaming, a birching stool as well as allows pupils to experience being in a shut cell which contains the story of an 11 year old boy who was convicted of his third offence - stealing gooseberries.

***"The Guardians' role-play really helped to contextualise the work of the Board of Guardians, which students often struggle to comprehend."***



York College