

DesignLab Nation, Coventry Information for Schools



Would your school like to be part of the V&A's new programme, DesignLab Nation?

DesignLab Nation brings together Secondary schools in partnership with the V&A, regional museums and creative industries to inspire students and support teachers through in-depth design projects.

DesignLab Nation is a fully funded project and we are looking for Secondary Schools in the Coventry area to be involved.

What does it include?

- A designer-led project for one Ks3 or KS4 Design and Technology class (of approx. 30 students). The project would run over one academic term (autumn, spring or summer) in the academic year 2019/2020. This would include 4 full day creative sessions including full day trips to Coventry Transport Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, London and other local industries.

The challenge we are setting students in 2019/2020 is to solve problems in our society through the lens of cycling. Sessions will involve inspiring 'hands on' creative workshops, interactive talks and demonstrations led by professional designers and access to museum exhibitions and collections.

- An end of project celebration with other local based schools where students can showcase their designs and celebrate their achievements.
- All materials/equipment.
- Transport to London by train or coach. Please note that we ask schools to make their own arrangements for transport around Coventry, however we are happy to review this if this is an issue for a school.
- A D&T focused professional development session for teachers and school staff (CPD).
- Support from designers and museum staff to help students and teachers to work on the project between workshops.

Through the programme the V&A aims for students:

- To be more interested in pursuing a career in the creative industries.
- To be more interested in studying a creative subject at school or beyond.
- To be more confident in their art and design skills, and develop 21st century skills (creative thinking, critical thinking and collaboration) essential for future workplaces.
- Have a better understanding about design, and how to access collections and industries at a local and national level.

Through the programme the V&A aims for teachers:

- To gain new skills and approaches of learning ready to take back to the classroom.
- To be inspired and passionate about their subject and wanting to endorse it within the school.
- To feel enthusiastic and more prepared in teaching the new D&T GCSE and/or other creative subjects.
- To feel more connected to their local museum, local design industries and local teacher networks.
- For headteachers and governors to have a better understanding of the V&A and partner museums as a resource to support D&T and offer greater support to D&T teaching.

Who is the project for?

- Open to state-funded secondary schools.
- Students who are studying Design and Technology at KS3 or KS4.
- Schools who have not recently engaged with Coventry based museums or the V&A, and are based in areas of 'above average' income deprivation e.g. have a high number of students who receive Pupil Premium or Free School Meals.

Would you like to take part?

Please get in touch with the following information:

- Name
- School
- Email
- Phone
- Year group and number of students who you would like to involve
- Ideal academic term you would like the project to occur

For further questions please contact:

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DesignLab Nation- inspiring the next generation of designers, makers and innovators

Creative education has the power to change and shape young people's lives for the better, and today, the creative industries are worth over £10 million per hour to the UK economy. However, design education across the UK is in crisis and a damaging skills gap is increasingly apparent.

The V&A's national schools programme- **DesignLab Nation**- aims to inspire the next generation of designers, makers and innovators across the country, and to help young people develop the 21st century skills for the workplace of the future including; **critical thinking, creativity and collaboration**. This three-year programme uses regional partnerships with museums and designers to support deliver in-depth design projects to secondary schools, support teachers and raise the profile of creative education through developing local D&T networks.

The Need

In recent years, we have witnessed a dramatic decline in uptake of creative subjects by students at GCSE level, with D&T suffering a staggering drop of 57% since 2010. As creative education deteriorates among young people who are being encouraged to narrow their focus on subjects included in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), so too does the provision of D&T teacher training, with the number of design-specialist teachers in the country down 32% since 2010. Combined, these issues are leading to a drastic skills shortage, which is already being felt by the UK's creative industries.

"Having access to the arts in school is good for attainment, good for job prospects, and good for the creative talent pipeline."

Tristram Hunt, V&A Director

As the world's greatest museum of art and design – a 'schoolroom for everyone', as described by our founding Director, Henry Cole – the V&A has an essential role to play in the nation's creative education. The need to improve D&T provision is particularly acute in the Midlands and the north of England, where creative industries have historically thrived, but attainment in D&T GCSE is lower than in London and the South East.

Programme Overview

DesignLab Nation, part of the V&A national schools programme is forging new partnerships between regional museums, their local secondary schools and creative industries. Taking place in five industrial areas – **Blackburn, Coventry, Sheffield, Stoke-on-Trent and Sunderland** – our expert learning practitioners will work closely with regional organisations to deliver in-depth practical design projects inspired by their nearby industries and industrial heritage.

In each participating region, we partner with a museum and a professional designer. Together, we deliver in-depth design projects to local secondary school groups (aged 11-16, approx. 25 students in each) and continuing professional development (CPD) sessions for regional networks of teachers. These activities are supported by the loan of inspiring and relevant objects from the V&A's collections for public display in the regional museums. All participating students will visit both their local museum and the V&A during their project, as well as additional engagement with other local design industries, colleges and universities. This programme supports the teaching of the new Design and Technology (D&T) GCSE, which launched in September 2017.

"It has been one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had in my decade or so of teaching"

Participating Teacher

In each year of the programme, partner museums are asked to recruit three local schools that they have not recently engaged with, and which are based in areas with above average levels of income deprivation or/and have low levels of cultural engagement. This programme is fully funded for all schools who take part, including travel to London and workshop materials.

'DesignLab Nation has made me more aware about the different ways one problem can be solved'

Participating Student

Current Partners and Participation

Blackburn: Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery

Coventry: Culture Coventry

Sheffield: Museums Sheffield

Stoke on Trent: Potteries Museum and Art Gallery

Sunderland: National Glass Centre

In each year of the programme, each partner museum collaborates with local design professionals to work with three local Secondary Schools. Partner Museums are asked to recruit schools that they have not recently engaged with, and which are based in areas with above average levels of income deprivation or/and have low levels of cultural engagement. We ask schools to select one D&T group from their school with students (KS3 or KS4, approx. 30 students) who would most benefit from this experience, in particular those on the Pupil Premium scheme. This programme is fully funded for all schools who take part, including travel to London and workshop materials.



Participation targets across the whole programme (September 2017- August 2020):

- 900 students, 3600 instances of participation
- 216 teachers, 324 instances of participation

Project Outcomes

This three-year programme is the first phase in what we hope will become a key part of our ongoing national educational programming for schools. Through DesignLab Nation, the V&A aims to:

- Inspire the next generation of professional designers, makers and innovators
- Equip young people with 21st century skills necessary for workplaces of the future
- Support the teaching of Design & Technology and the future of the creative industries
- Support regional museums and local design networks
- Expand the reach of the V&A's collections

Through the programme the V&A aims for students:

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Through the programme the V&A aims for teachers:

- To gain new skills and approaches of learning ready to take back to the classroom
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- To feel more connected to their local museum, local design industries and local teacher networks
- For headteachers and governors to have a better understanding of the V&A and partner museums as a resource to support D&T and offer greater support to D&T teaching.

Through the programme the V&A aims for partner museums:

- To feel more connected to local secondary schools and teachers
- To feel more connected to local designers and local design industries
- To feel that the V&A loans have supported the way visitors interact with their own collections and local design heritage
- To raise the profile of D&T in the curriculum in their local area
- To feel connected to the V&A, other partner museums and a national network aiming to raise the profile of D&T
- To develop and embed a model for future programmes, working specifically with secondary school D&T students and teachers

Fundraising and Budget

DesignLab Nation is generously supported by Art Fund and The Foyle Foundation. With additional support from Sarah Nichols, The Staples Trust, The Zochonis Charitable Trust, Outset Contemporary Art Fund, the Brian Mercer Charitable Trust, The Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, The Daniel Howard Foundation, The Barbour Foundation, the William Brake Charitable Trust, Sir James Knott Trust, The Fort Foundation, the Edward and Dorothy Cadbury Trust, The James Neill Trust Fund and The Percy Hedley 1990 Charitable Trust.

About the V&A

Founded after the Great Exhibition in 1851, the V&A is the world's leading museum of art and design. We use stunning permanent displays, acclaimed temporary exhibitions, world-class research and educational activities to increase people's knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the designed world. Last year, our London sites attracted 4.3 million visits and our website received 13.3 million visits. Nearly 3,000 objects were on loan at 241 organisations around the UK and over 340,000 people engaged with our learning programmes.

For further information, please contact:

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Find out more information by visiting www.vam.ac.uk/info/designlab#designlab-nation

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