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# VIRTUAL HOLYROOD: ONLINE WORKSHOPS FOR SCHOOLS

## TEACHER INFORMATION PACK



This pack is designed to give you all the practical information you need to take part in an online workshop.

**Palace of Holyroodhouse Learning Team**

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## About Virtual Holyrood

Virtual Holyrood brings the Palace of Holyroodhouse into your classroom! Pupils take part in an interactive video call with a member of our Learning Team and explore the Palace through virtual object handling, images and short films which take them behind the ropes in some of our most spectacular rooms! Virtual Holyrood costs £35 per class.

## How It Works

### Software

The online workshop will take place using video call software. We ask that schools set up a video call using their chosen software and invite us to join and share our screen so we can deliver the online workshop.

### Equipment

For the online workshop audio visual equipment is required. You can use the following:

- A desktop top with a compatible camera, speaker and microphone
- A laptop with an integrated camera, speaker and microphone
- Either of the above with a projector connected
- A smart screen

### Test Call

If you would like to test your software and equipment before your online workshop please contact the Palace of Holyroodhouse Learning Team directly by emailing [holyroodlearning@rct.uk](mailto:holyroodlearning@rct.uk).

## Safety Information

We have undertaken a risk assessment for the online workshop. When booking your online workshop you will be sent our Remote Learning Expectations to read. These will outline what we expect from you and your group and what you can expect from us. The Royal Household Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Procedures can be found [here](#).

## Online Workshop Choices

We have developed four Curriculum of Excellence linked 45 minute workshops for you to choose from based on our most popular sessions at the Palace. Each workshop can be adapted to be suitable for pupils from Level 1 to Senior Phase.

### **Mary, Queen of Scots**

Enter the court of Mary, Queen of Scots. Find out about daily life in the Palace, and explore the Queen's private apartments before investigating the events of 9 March 1566 – the murder of Mary's secretary, David Rizzio.

### **Bonnie Prince Charlie**

It is 1745 and music fills the Great Gallery, where Bonnie Prince Charlie and his supporters celebrate their recent victory at the Battle of Prestonpans. Find out why the Palace was so important to the Jacobites and what happened when the Prince set up court here for 5 weeks that year.

### **Queen Victoria**

Step into Queen Victoria's Palace. Explore the stories of Queen Victoria's regular visits to Holyroodhouse and use real Victorian objects to find out about different jobs and pastimes in the Victorian era.

### **A Right Royal Home**

The Palace has been a royal home for over 500 years but did you know it is still used regularly by the Royal Family today? Find out about some of the past royal residents then discover what happens during the biggest event of the year, Royal Week, when Her Majesty The Queen comes to stay in Edinburgh.

## Questions and Answers

During the workshop there will be a Question and Answer section. To help us prepare for this please email questions from your class to [holyroodlearning@rct.uk](mailto:holyroodlearning@rct.uk).

## How to Book

To make a booking contact the Learning Bookings team.

Learning Bookings Team  
Ticket Sales and Information Office  
Buckingham Palace  
London SW1A 1AA

T. (+44) (0)303 123 7323

F. (+44) (0)20 7930 9625

learning@rct.uk

Please have to hand:

- Preferred date and possible alternatives, plus time.
- Numbers of children
- The session you would like
- Details of any special educational or access needs

You will then be sent a reservation letter, together with your teachers' resource pack, giving a date by which full payment must be received to secure the booking.

You will then be put in touch with the Learning Team at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for you to share a link with.

## Starting Your Workshop

The Learning Team at the Palace of Holyroodhouse will join your video call 10 minutes before your session start time. When you start the session please enable the Learning Team to share their screen so that they can share a presentation with the class.

## “Pre-visit” and “Post-visit” Resources

Before your session you may wish to introduce your class to the Palace of Holyroodhouse and the topic of your session. The following resources and links will support you in doing this. After your session these can also be used to continue their learning.

- [Discover School Resources](#)
- [Visit the Palace of Holyroodhouse](#)
- [Explore the Collection](#)

## Introduction to the Palace of Holyroodhouse

The Palace is The Queen's official residence in Scotland. Spanning 10 centuries of history, from its foundation as an Augustinian monastery to its role today, the Palace is an ideal focus for a wide range of studies. This guide may be useful in preparing for your visit.

Key points in the history of the Palace of Holyroodhouse:



### 1: King David (r. 1124 – 53)

The foundation of the Palace of Holyroodhouse as an Abbey in 1128. Holyrood got its name after King David founded the Abbey following a vision he had had. Out on a hunting trip, the King was attacked by a stag. He suddenly had vision of a glowing cross between its antlers and when he reached out to touch it, the stag turned and ran. The King was safe and in gratitude named the site after the Scottish word for cross (rood). Holyrood – the site of the holy cross.



### 2: King James V (r. 1513 – 42)

The building of the great Tower, between 1528-1532. This was built to withstand attack, and has very thick walls. At the base, you can see the marks left by gunfire, as well as space for a cannon. This tower may have been built to celebrate James' marriage to the French King's daughter, Madeleine de Valois. After her death, James married another woman from a powerful French family, Mary of Guise

### 3: Mary, Queen of Scots (r. 1542 – 67)

Many of the famous events of Mary's life happened while she stayed at the Palace of Holyroodhouse: Marriage to Henry Stuart (Lord Damley) in 1565, her secretary David Riccio (Rizzio) was murdered in 1566, Damley was killed at Kirk o' Field in 1567, and she was married to James Hepburn (the Earl of Bothwell) in 1567.



#### 4: King Charles II (r. 1649 –85)

After the Palace had been damaged by Oliver Cromwell's troops, Charles II embarked on a huge building campaign. He was convinced of the importance of having an impressive residence in Scotland. A large part of what we now see is due to the work commissioned by Charles II.



#### 5: Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie)

In 1745 Bonnie Prince Charlie held court at the Palace and is said to have held a ball in the Great Gallery. After his defeat at Culloden in 1746, the victorious Government soldiers were quartered at the Palace, and they slashed the portraits of the monarchs of Scotland in the Great Gallery with their sabres. Marks from their swords can still be seen on the repaired pictures today.

#### 6: King George IV (r. 1820 – 30)

In 1822, George IV made a state visit to Scotland – the first by a Hanoverian monarch. George received guests at the Palace, and it is said that he refused to see anyone unless they wore tartan.

#### 7: Queen Victoria (r. 1837 – 1901)

When Victoria began visiting Balmoral Castle, she stopped off at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. At this time, the Palace was badly in need of repair, having been split into a series of 'grace and favour' apartments.

Victoria and her husband Prince Albert, spent time refurbishing the interior of the Palace and landscaping the gardens and because they used it so often, it once again became established as a Royal Residence.



#### 8: Queen Elizabeth (r. 1952 - )

The Palace remains a Royal Residence to this day, and our present Queen stays here for a week every year in the summer. Alongside state events and other official functions, she holds a garden party, to which 8,000 people from all walks of life are invited.

Other members of the Royal Family also use the Palace throughout the year. During his visits to Scotland, The Queen's son, Prince Charles, uses his official Scottish title – The Duke of Rothesay.

