

Character Workshops at Caldicot Castle

We offer a range of character workshops that enable pupils to discover many different aspects of castle life at Caldicot in the 14th century

Key Stage: Foundation Phase

Duration of workshop: 45 minutes

Maximum number of pupils per workshop: 30

Lady Alianore

Lady Alianore's family held the castle in Caldicot for over 200 years and were very important in Wales, the Marches and beyond. She will tell your class all about life in the castle in the late 14th century. Pupils will have the opportunity to take part in role-play, handle related artefacts and question the lady about her life and times. Lady Alianore covers a wide range of topics from crime and punishment to courtly good manners – very different to our modern ideas of correct behaviour.

Sir Thomas de Harcourt

Sir Thomas is a visitor to the castle, a guest of the important family that owned Caldicot. Sir Thomas greets the children in full armour. His main focus is on the duties of a knight – military, religious and within society. There is weaponry for the children to see and other items that reflect his social status, with plenty of opportunities for pupils to interact with the character.

The Cook

Pupils will meet either the man cook or his wife. They will discover not only what residents in the castle ate and drank but how it was prepared and why it was so essential for a man cook to be very strong. As well as related artefacts, there is always a range of appropriate ingredients – some with memorable smells! This character workshop is a great basis from which to compare and contrast food then and now. Sessions include elements of role play and the chance to ask questions.

The Storyteller

Our Storyteller John brings Welsh culture and heritage alive with music and song. Be entertained by his magical harp and be enchanted by the many tales he tells about the history of the castle.

We can also offer additional characters to those above including a barber surgeon, a herbwoman and a monk. Please contact Heltenham@monmouthshire.gov.uk for further information.

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Lady Alianore

Sir Thomas de Harcourt

The Cook

The Storyteller

The Barber Surgeon

The Herbwoman

A Monk

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What will pupils do?

- Meet one or more characters from the past (late 14th century) who will interact in role with the pupils and who will be dressed in period costume.
- Participate in multi-sensory object engagement; observe, handle, use and investigate relevant artefacts.
- Take part in role play
- Use questioning skills to get further information from the characters.
- Discover many differences between life then and now – both on a practical and an ethical level.
- Increase their knowledge of the local situation at the time when the castle was a site of great significance, as well as increasing their generic knowledge of life in a castle.
- Recognise different materials in use at the time (wood, metals, glass, etc.) and consider why they were appropriate to use.

By taking part in this workshop pupils will:

- Use analytical skills in relation to objects
- Use objects to enhance their understanding of the period
- Use role play to enhance their understanding of the period
- Develop questioning skills
- Be encouraged to develop descriptive skills
- Think creatively and critically
- Use their listening and speaking skills
- Increase confidence levels
- Employ prior knowledge

Which Areas of Learning and Experience does this workshop support?

- Expressive Arts
- Humanities

How this workshop supports the Four Purposes:

<p>Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• set themselves high standards and seek and enjoy challenge• are building up a body of knowledge and have the skills to connect and apply that knowledge in different contexts• are questioning and enjoy solving problems• can communicate effectively in different forms and settings, using both Welsh and English• Can explain the ideas and concepts they are learning about	<p>Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• connect and apply their knowledge and skills to create ideas and products• think creatively to reframe and solve problems• identify and grasp opportunities• take measured risks• express ideas and emotions through different media• give of their energy and skills so that other people will benefit
<p>Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• find, evaluate and use evidence in forming views• engage with contemporary issues based on their knowledge and values• are knowledgeable about their culture, community	<p>Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are building their mental and emotional well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy• take part in physical activity• have the confidence to participate in performance