



PRESS RELEASE

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The Victoria and Albert Museum comes to Beacon Hill

Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer school Beacon Hill Academy was visited by two facilitators from the **Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)** on Friday 2 November. The artists led an interactive multi-sensory workshop for 10 students.

Beacon Hill Academy chose a workshop called Tipu's Tiger, about an Indian Sultan who was fascinated by the strength and power of the tiger.

The workshop offered ways for the children to make use of all their senses to learn about the story. They interacted with puppets, feeling different materials and textures, smelled curry spices and tea, and listened to the sounds of musical instruments. They also created their own animal masks.

The V&A workshop was picked by Beacon Hill Academy as part of its Thurrock Trailblazer programme. Thurrock Trailblazer is a cultural entitlement programme delivered by Royal Opera House, and offers Thurrock schools a wide range of arts and creativity inspired Continual Professional Development, in-school practical workshops, visits to cultural and heritage sites and performances throughout the academic year. Beacon Hill Academy is in its third year of working with Thurrock Trailblazer.

Amanda Bradley, teacher and Trailblazer Cultural Champion at Beacon Hill, chose the V&A workshop to provide students with a new sensory experience, and to build and develop partnerships and work collaboratively with external agencies. The whole school has previously had great success with an inclusive dance project by Trailblazer partner **Confidance**.

'The V&A were certainly an extraordinary resource to work in partnership with, and we look forward in anticipation to working collaboratively with them again in the future', said **Jacqueline Drew, Class Teacher at Beacon Hill Academy**.

'The learning team at the V&A is delighted to be working with schools in Thurrock with the Royal

Opera House's Trailblazer initiative. We look forward to introducing young people in the area to our objects, collections and activities over the coming year and beyond', said **Adrian Deakes, Programme Manager, V&A Museum.**

To find out more about the Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer programme, please go to www.roh.org.uk/trailblazer.

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Notes for Editors

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock has been offering innovative and creative projects and programmes in schools, colleges and across communities in the Thames Gateway since 2006.

Since then, more than 60,000 people have participated in activities ranging from schools' projects to teacher training, from work-based learning to fully-staged community operas. People in Thurrock have both been able to watch special performances at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and gain a very special insight into the behind-the-scenes process.

The Learning and Participation team runs the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus which currently has over 140 members of all ages and regularly performs across Thurrock and at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. For further information, please go to: www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/community-chorus. Details of future performances and taster session for the Community Chorus can be obtained by emailing getinvolved@roh.org.uk or calling 01708 891200.

Regular public tours of the state-of-the-art Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop where the sets and scenery for the Royal Opera House stage in Covent Garden are built, and the Bob and Tamar Manoukian Costume Centre, which opened in October 2015, are now available. Please go to www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours for further details.

In April 2012, the Royal Opera House agreed to become a [Bridge](#) organisation, working to connect children and young people to great art and culture across Essex, North Kent, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

The Learning and Participation team is based at the High House Production Park in Purfleet which is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House and Thurrock Council: www.hhpp.org.uk