



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

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Hassenbrook Academy students get creative at Big Barbican Workshop

Students from Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer school, Hassenbrook Academy recently travelled to London to attend a workshop at the Barbican, a world-class arts and learning centre.

Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning, which supports people of all ages and backgrounds to access the arts, hosted the students for a multi-arts workshop which enabled them to blur some of the boundaries between different art forms and develop their own creativity.

The Big Barbican workshop included art, drama, movement, music, animation and spoken word. Students were encouraged to experiment with each art form in small groups, collaborating in the creation of new ideas. They worked with experienced and established artists, who passed on their knowledge and skills, leading to a final piece that they shared with each other.

Jenny Mollica, Head of Creative Learning, Barbican / Guildhall School of Music & Drama, said: *“We were delighted to welcome pupils from Hassenbrook Academy to the Big Barbican Workshop, as part of the Royal Opera House’s Thurrock Trailblazer programme. Our workshop is a fantastic way for young people to explore all of the art forms that the Barbican has to offer, and to work together to create new ideas. We were really impressed by the participants and hope to see them again at the Barbican soon.”*

Julie Chappell, Lead Practitioner, Performing Arts at Hassenbrook was very enthusiastic about the trip: *“Big Barbican Workshop was brilliant. All the students came out buzzing at the end of the day. I was very impressed by their ability to stay as focused as they did. Many students have said that they thought it was the best trip they have ever been on.”*

Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer provides pupils with access to high quality arts and culture activities provided by Royal Opera House and other cultural organizations. Working with the ROH Learning and Participation team each school creates a yearlong calendar of cross-curricular creative activities that is tailored to their school's needs. The programme can include any art form such as: creative writing, visual arts and design, drama, dance, music, singing, film and photography.

To ensure schools develop the very best programme for their pupils, Thurrock Trailblazer also gives teachers access to expertise, training and resources from a wide range of great cultural providers such as theatres, museums, galleries, orchestras, professional artists, writers and choreographers. To find out more email thurrock.trailblazer@roh.org.uk or 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