

Join with Junior Tour Guides to, virtually, explore Linlithgow Palace

Young people across Scotland are being encouraged by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to explore the magnificent [Linlithgow Palace](#) from wherever they may be, with the launch of an online learning resource including a new film today (23rd February) starring the Junior Tour Guides from Linlithgow Primary School.

While Linlithgow Palace currently has access restrictions in place to allow for essential inspection work, HES have been focused on finding alternative ways to share its stories with families and young people across Scotland and continue to bring the site's colourful history to life.

The film, which is [available to watch here](#), is the most recent instalment of the popular Junior Tour Guide scheme, launched by Linlithgow Primary School over 40 years ago and now in partnership with HES, which gives local children the opportunity to learn more about the history and heritage of the local site, by taking an active part in promoting it.





Mary Queen of Scots was born in the Palace in 1542

Individuals can join the Junior Tour Guides in their finery, and in character as 16th Century Lords and Ladies, to learn more about the Stewart Kings and Queens, understand coded messages, learn palace etiquette, discover the food eaten at royal feasts, and practise a court dance. The film also has a selection of accompanying teaching resources to extend [learning about the Palace](#), which hosted Scottish Royalty for over 600 years.

HES continues to work in partnership with Linlithgow Primary School and other schools across Scotland to deliver the Junior Tour Guides programme. This year the Linlithgow Junior Tour Guide scheme will focus on learning about the nature and history of Linlithgow Peel and its relationship with the palace, while access restrictions are in place at the site.

Craig Fletcher, Head of Learning and Inclusion at HES said: "Despite the challenges of the pandemic it's been great to be able to continue delivering this project in a reimagined way,

making use of digital technology and the young peoples' creativity. We are delighted to be able to launch these new resources meaning learners can take a virtual tour of Linlithgow Palace from a classroom anywhere in the world, and who better to lead them on it, than the young people of Linlithgow themselves.



Linlithgow Palace looking resplendent in winter

“The film is a fantastic example of the creative, collaborative projects championed by Historic Environment Scotland that help to encourage young people to engage with heritage, imaginatively and on their own terms. ”

Closely linked to many aspects of the Curriculum for Excellence, training as Junior Tour Guides is designed to increase pupil's understanding and appreciation of their local heritage as well as helping them to build confidence and develop transferable life skills.

Illuminate UK, specialists in drama education, deliver the Junior Tour Guides training programme with HES. The film was

created in collaboration with Media Education.

Karen McKenzie, Director at Illuminate said: "Making this film marked 15 years for us of working in partnership with Linlithgow Primary School and HES on the Junior Tour Guide project. It is hard to express just how happy both the children and adults were during this shoot! This was a fantastic learning experience in a stunning location filled with creativity, history and laughter and we hope it shows in the quality of the children's performances."



Jousting is still a feature of the Palace Peel in modern times Robbie Taylor, Deputy Head at Linlithgow Primary School said: "This Palace Tour Guide film was a new way to engage the children with so many aspects of learning, but also gave us a chance to be able to produce something that other children and adults could watch and learn from too. The Tour Guide programme enables our children to learn about the Palace which is at the centre of our community, while also gaining valuable life skills and helping them to build confidence."

The video is part of a suite of learning materials available to access on the HES website. Launched at the start of the

pandemic, HES's Learn, Create and Play webpages bring together new and existing resources to help educators and families get inspired by Scotland's past either in the classroom or at home. For further information visit <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/learn-create-play>