

## Derby Museums Work Experience

For my work experience placement, I had the amazing opportunity to spend three days with Derby Museums (Pickford's House, Museum and Art Gallery and The Museum of Making). I found it very exciting but was also unsure of what I was getting into or what to expect. I enjoy visiting museums and always have, but never really thought about what was going on behind the scenes to keep everything up and running. Over the course of my placement, I learned that there's so much more to the museums than meets the eye. Each day gave me a brand-new perspective, and I came back with a deeper appreciation for all the work that goes into creating these very special places.

Day 1 focused on Marketing, Volunteering and Workshops. We started by looking at how Derby Museums promotes its events and exhibitions. I learned how important it is to understand your audience when creating posters or writing social media posts on different platforms. A lot of thought goes into the way things are promoted or advertised, and even small design decisions can make a big difference. We also learned about the role of volunteers in the museum. I hadn't realised how important they are – not only do they support staff, but they also help create a friendly and engaging experience for visitors. Finally, looked at how workshops are designed to educate and entertain people of all ages, and how they help make the museum experience more interactive.

Day 2 was all about Curating, Learning and Retail. The curating session was my personal favourite (as I am interested in possibly going into this type of work). I learned about how Curators decide which objects to include in an exhibition and how they tell a story through the way things are displayed. It's not just about choosing interesting items - it's about creating meaning and sparking curiosity. The learning team showed us how they work with schools and local communities to make history and art more accessible. It made me realise how important museums are for education outside the classroom. We also looked at the retail side of the museum, mainly the shop, and how much planning goes into what gets sold (what would be interesting to certain target audiences and how to make profit from the shop more easily to fund the museum) along with how the smallest details can influence people's retail decisions.

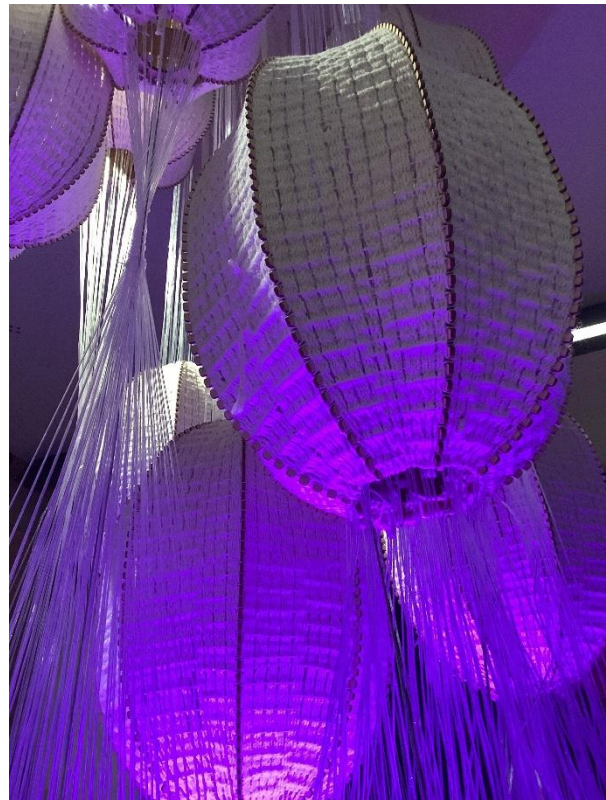
Day 3 covered Fundraising and Venue, which gave me a different perspective on how the museum is run. Fundraising is crucial for helping the museum stay open and free. I learned that the museum can heavily rely on public donations and campaigns to support their work. Even small contributions can help cover things like exhibitions, conservation, and education projects. We also explored venue hire, which I found really interesting. I hadn't realised that the museum offers its spaces for weddings, parties and corporate events. It's a clever way to generate income while allowing more people to enjoy the building in different ways. We got

the opportunity to see how the museum transforms for events and how important it is to balance preserving the space with making it work for guests.

My overall work experience with Derby Museums was a fantastic opportunity to see how a museum really works behind the scenes. I learned so much about the different departments and how each one plays a part in creating engaging, educational experiences for the public. It showed me the variety of careers available in the museum sector, and I came away feeling more inspired and confident about the world of work. I'm really grateful that I had the chance to be a part of it, even just for a few days.

## Caiden's Work Experience Blog

I spent 3 days at the 3 sites of derby museums, I took this photo on the first day and since then it has been my favourite. The first sight I visited was The Museum of Making, located along the River Derwent in the heart of Derby, The Silk Mill stands as a crucial part of history as it is the first silk mill EVER and quite suddenly kicked off what we call the industrial revolution! While I was visiting, I worked very closely with a few teams, looking into the inner workings of the museum and how it runs, something I would never know unless I was offered this wonderful experience. We learned from Marketing, Volunteering and the Workshop. All these teams are important to the success of the museums. The Museum of Making is not the only wonderful site I was able to



have a look into, Derby, a city carved from its history and innovation, is home to a trio of extraordinary museums that together tell the story of Derby's industrial, artistic, and domestic heritage. Just a short walk from the Museum of Making lays the Museum and Art gallery, specialising in Joseph Wright of Derby collection. During our visit there we worked with Curators and Retail. With Curating we learned about how they excavate the artifacts in the museum. With the retail team we took a deep dive into how the museum makes money from the shop and cafe. As a last call we explored Pickford's House and saw in what way we can bring more people into the building so the council can fund another year. I really enjoyed my experience at the Museums and I really felt part of the team.

## Derby museum blog

On the first day we arrived at 9:30 for introductions where we learned some basics about Derby museums.

Then we moved onto Marketing where we learned about the kinds of marketing done by derby museums and how they use social medias including Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. we were tasked to go around the museum of making and take photos of 3 objects that we were interested by and write up a social media post about them and to write alt text for the photos as well I felt like I learned a lot about how in depth it is.

During lunch me and my friends weren't used to leaving the building for lunch, so we were a bit late back but thankfully not that late

But after lunch we learnt about volunteering, currently there is a 2-year project on climate change where they ask people of the community how they think of climate change and any changes Derby museums could do.

After that we moved down to the workshop, and we were shown around and talked about how we were going to create name badges out of Jesmonite. Here is the one I made



## Day 2

We met at the art gallery at 9 30 where we met the curator team and got to touch some clay shards, and we had an activity about designing our own displays for the shards and fragments.

Then we went to lunch and me and my friends from the lunch yesterday went to a corner shop and brought a snack for lunch, so we had a lot of spare time and we explored Pickford's house.

After lunch we had an activity to do with lesson planning and making an event that would appeal to schools and children this was surprisingly fun

We then walked back to the art museum where we did some retail activities like product planning and target audience appropriate products like how children 0-5 would want something to play with and children 6-12 might want a book or a toy a bit more complex then 0-5 would want and people 12+ would be interested in a lot more.

## Day 3

We met at the Museum of Making at 9:30 again and we did some fundraising activities and me and my friends (Me, Tyler, Fozan) did a scavenger hunt for fundraising and we learned how derby museums profit.

Then we did the most boring part of the day venue hire this was so boring because we were walked around and talked about how each room could be used if rented out for corporate or personal uses, so it was very boring, but we came up with an event for the venue which was fun.

In conclusion, I found this work experience very entertaining and fun. I think that day 1 was my favourite and day 3 being my least favourite but overall, I greatly enjoyed the amount of fun I had, and I learned a lot about how museums are run.



# Derby Museums

Work Experience Blog

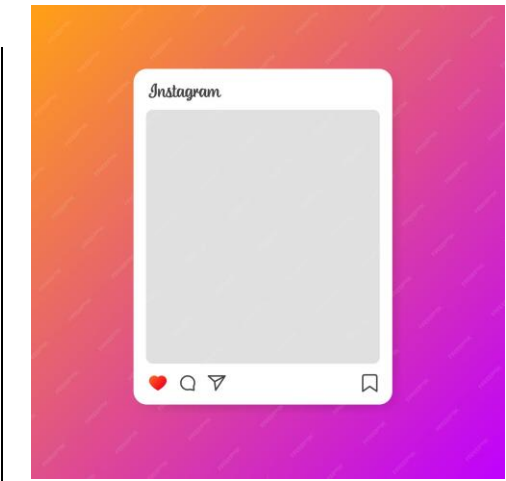


A Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 a prominent exhibit at the Museum of Making in Derby, located at the site of the world's first factory, Derby Museum of Making.

## Activities

### The Activities We Did

1. Marketing: One of the activities we did was learning about marketing. During this we were given advice on how to advertise online and offline and to promote a particular field. We were given many different to take photos of



### Our Experience

-----THIEBAULT AND FOZAN  
It was a vital aspect for us, as Derby Museums gave us an amazing opportunity to learn valuable skills and information we can use in our respective workplaces in the future.



We did a number of activities which related to Derby Museums as a whole such as Fundraising, Workshop, Retail and many more!

Many of these required practical skills, communication and good teamwork. Lucky for us we had Kathryn Levy our amazing Work Experience lead to guide us during these valuable three days.





many artifacts, artwork and machinery. Once the photos were acquired we were to make an Instagram and Facebook post.

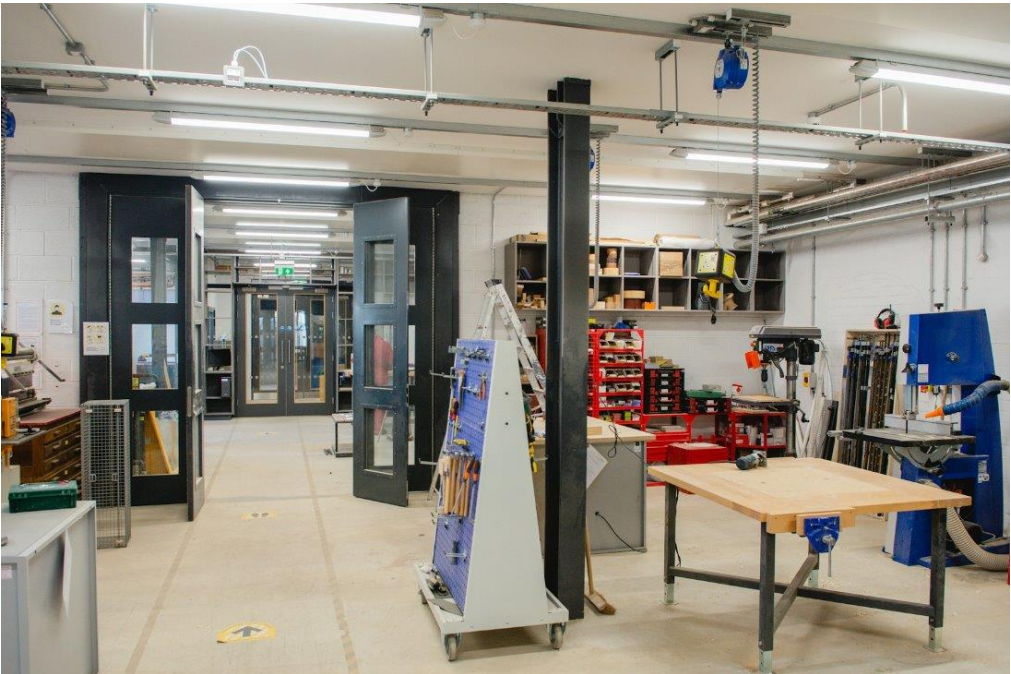
2. Volunteering: We had a very interesting session about volunteering we learnt about how volunteering is a very important aspect in any scheme as it benefits the local community and also provides a sense of purpose and social connections. We learnt about climate change and how it affects the world and what we as people can do to reduce climate change as much as possible.

3. Workshop: In the workshop there are a multitude of opportunities to be had such as CNC routers, laser engravers, metal lathes, a furnace for casting, a kiln for ceramics, and a welding kit. All very specialised equipment. During this we had many people helping us making our name badges and showing us around the workshop and the best thing is that its FREE! Once your 18 you can use the workshop free of cost BUT you have to bring your own materials.

Image of the Museum of Making when it got flooded due to Storm Babet in October 2023.



Image below shows The Workshop in the Museum of Making, Derby.



Overall, Derby Museums and all of the valuable sessions have taught us how important different roles and fields are important in any based business and also Influencing us to partake in activities and volunteer for schemes such as Derby Musuem.

4. Curating Session: When we moved over from the Museum of Making, we attended the Museum and Art Gallery. The main topic of focus was Roman Derby. In this session we learnt about how archaeologists discover local pottery in Derby in a suburb named 'Little Chester'. We were given shards of pottery in various sizes, and we found out how to determine its possible circumference before it was shattered. We also were given a task to make a hypothetical new display cabinet to showcase the museum artifacts.



Artefacts displayed in Art Gallery Museum, Derby.



# Kordell's blog

Day 1:

On the first day we were at the museum of making (MOM) we had begun with marketing with Sophie and Zoe where we were given advice on how to advertise and promote the museum online and offline.

We were given the task to take photos of various artifacts, artworks, and machinery in the museum.

Once we took the photos, we were then challenged with the task of making an online post for Facebook and Instagram about three objects.

I personally had taken to Erasmus Darwin microscope grandfather to Charles Darwin, the Gibson technology GK428 LMP2 engine which is often used in the Le Mans 24 hours race but more specifically for endurance racing and lastly the loom which I did not get very many facts about it, but it looked interesting.

After lunch we learned about the various roles available in volunteering with hope, including interacting with visitors, assisting with events, helping

to care for collections, and contributing to the museum's operations.

We also discussed the effects of climate change and how the museum could help raise awareness of it. We concluded the museum actually wasn't the place to talk of climate change but there could be various other opportunities to talk about it.

In the final part of the day, we were in the workshop with Taylor and Gillian (my favourite part of the experience) and

some very cool name tags for us to use.



Which shows the various amounts of activities available to people in these museums also proving why it is so important to fund these places so derby can show its history and deliver fun activities at the same time!!!

Day 2:

In the beginning of the second day, we went to the museum and art gallery in the old library/Warwick where we talked about the diverse types of archaeological digs like a civil dig which is done before land is built on. Also, we looked at the design of the collection cases and designed our own versions.

After lunch we walked to Pickford house with Rachael and John and created our own ideas to teach people when they go to Pickford house. My group produced the idea of a scavenger hunt that required kids to visit every room inside of Pickford house and then create a sentence from visiting each room and solving a puzzle in each 1.

Lastly, we went back to the Warwick to discuss retail with Nicola and Lauren. We had to look at the age ranges of toys and different selling points between them. My group were speaking about the age ranges between 6-11, we found there was not a lot for that age range, surprisingly. Possibly as they have a vast range of interests making it difficult to buy for.

Day 3:

On the third and final day we had begun with fundraising with Helena and Erin where we talked



about the variety of different ways to push fundraising to large ranges of people with ideas such as decreasing card reader prices so more people can afford to donate and brilliant ideas such as a Scavenger Hunt, Posters etc. I quite enjoyed this activity too because it felt like I was giving to the community.

After lunch we had venue hire in the museum of making with Annie and Jessie where we learned about the different sites used and the special techniques used to get the venues out there like the fact the museums can be used as wedding venues and there can also be conferences and party's all these fancy events can be shown on the derby museums website. We were all tasked with trying to figure out all the details needed to plan a specific event and trying to hold someone else's event, which was in fact quite fun. At the end we got to see an amazing view by going up to the tower, which is an extremely rare event, and it was beautiful.

At the end of the day, we began the plan for this blog which ended up much longer than intended but it was nice to recap our experiences. Overall, I very much enjoyed my time at Derby museums, and I am considering volunteering for more work there.



## **Moira's Work Experience Blog**

During a recent visit to derby museum, i had the pleasure of spending a few days at the Derby Musuem and Art Gallery, and what an enriching experience it turned out to be. Derby, a city with rich and important history to Britain this museum offers a fascinating mix of art, history and science that left me not only educated, but inspired.

The moment I walked in, I was struck by the friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The staff were all helpful and knew what they were talking about. The layout was memorable and easy to navigate (especially in the gallery spaces). In the museum of making, we started off the day with an activity regarding marketing. We were told to take pictures of countless items in the museum and write an enticing message about their rich histories. We then learned about volunteering and the environment; how the museum was affected by things like climate change. For example, Storm Babet hit the museum and flooded it greatly. We learned how volunteers, no matter how many, can help impact the museum. Afterwards we did a workshop, which taught us how to make Jesmonite name badges. It was very interesting seeing how people chaos certain colors and design choices.

The next day, we were taken to the Museum and Art Gallery. Where we learned things like archeology. This told the story of Derbyshire from the stone age through roman occupation and beyond. The roman artifacts, including pottery and jewelry were beautifully preserved, and it was fascinating to imagine what life must have been like where I am now 2000 years ago. After that we traversed to Pickford's house, where we learned Georgian customs and architecture. And helped them come up with new, fun, ideas for children who come by on school trips. There was also a Dracula exhibition that featured gothic, macabre and Victorian Esque fashion and cultures from the area. After Pickford's we went back to the gallery and learned things about retail and how they come up with products for children, adults and babies. We created a mood board and presented it with ideas on how to appeal to all ages.

On the last day, we were at the Museum of Making and learned about Fundraising, and how the museum gains its main income. Like donations in people's wills, donations and wealthy sponsors. We were tasked with finding new ways to fundraise, like scavenger hunts and posters. After fundraising we did Venue Hire and learn how to create profit by renting the museum out to other people for things like weddings, parties and more. We came up with the idea of easter egg hunts, November 11 memorials and much more.

In short, the museum was a fun, new and interesting experience that I would recommend to most people. It's fun, quirky, and important for the history of Derby and Britain.