



# Learning Programme



# Why visit us?

If you are studying 17th century history, the Cromwell Museum can bring the past to life for you. Meet a civil war soldier, try on armour, and examine real artefacts, all while discovering how Oliver Cromwell rose from humble origins in Huntingdonshire to shape the history of an entire country.

Our workshops and resources allow students to come face to face with Oliver Cromwell, explore his life, and decide for themselves what kind of man he was by exploring objects that belonged to him and documents that were written by him.

Cromwell was born in Huntingdon, and later lived in St. Ives and Ely, making him an ideal choice for a local history study. Through studying his life, students can explore themes and topics such as what society and culture was like in the 17th century, the causes and events of the civil wars, the history of democracy and parliament in Britain, citizenship, and more.

Our workshops and resources are designed with the national curriculum in mind, and use our collection, as well as our expert staff and talented costumed re-enactors, to bring Oliver Cromwell and the British Civil Wars to life.



# What we offer

## ON SITE WORKSHOPS

Our workshops bring the 17th century to life with re-enactors, object handling, and interactive activities – plus the opportunity to see real objects that belonged to Oliver Cromwell up close, and discover what they can tell us about his life!

## VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

We have adapted some of our on-site workshops and talks to create engaging virtual sessions delivered over Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Experience all the benefits of visiting in person, including interactive activities, opportunities to ask and answer questions, and object exploration. We will bring the museum to you, anywhere in the country – but on your time, without travel costs, and in the safety of your school environment.

## LOAN BOXES

Our loan boxes are full of exciting real and replica objects, images, and documents. Accompanied by engaging and hands-on activities that are designed around the national curriculum, these boxes will allow students to explore the life and times of Oliver Cromwell. They can be booked in conjunction with a virtual workshop, for a fully interactive and facilitated classroom experience.



# Workshops

## KEY STAGE 1

### History

**Introduction to Life in Stuart Times** – Discover what life was like 350 years ago by exploring replica artefacts, pictures, and original objects on display.

**Meet a Civil War Soldier!** - In this virtual session, you will get to meet a real civil war soldier. Find out about his life, why he's fighting for Parliament, and see what he's wearing and how his equipment works. Don't forget to ask him everything you ever wanted to know about living in the 17th century!

## KEY STAGE 2

### History

**Who was Oliver Cromwell?** – Examine objects, portraits, and more to learn about the life of Oliver Cromwell, who was born and raised in Huntingdon and later lived in St. Ives and Ely. Discover whether he really banned Christmas, learn about his life, and what he did that made him one of the most important historical figures in Britain. This session is ideal for local schools doing a local history study. An optional follow up activity in the classroom gives students the chance to select items for their own 'Cromwell Museum'. This session can be offered either as an on site visit, or virtually.

**Evidence for Cromwell and his Life** – Explore objects, portraits, and documents to discover facts and opinions about Cromwell's life, learn to distinguish between the two, and ultimately decide on your own opinion of Cromwell based on evidence. This session can be booked as part of a topic pack with the Norris Museum, with a loan box included for use in the classroom for free.

**Civil War!** – Why was there a Civil War in this country? Discover the causes and events of the Civil Wars, and what life was like for those who fought in them. Examine original arms and armour, handle replica items and meet a real Civil War soldier.

**Cromwell's Huntingdon** – Take a tour of historic Huntingdon! Discover what Huntingdon looked like during Cromwell's childhood, and explore how it has changed since then. This session can be a stand-alone tour, or it can run concurrently with another workshop at the Museum, with groups split in half and switching off on activities.

### Art and Design

**Pictures of the Past** – What do portraits tell us about people from the past? Examine our remarkable collection of portraits to find the clues about the people in them. Then, create your own portrait in your sketchbook. This session can be offered either as an on site visit, or virtually.

ONE

TWO

# Loan Boxes

## KEY STAGE 1 and 2

**Pedlar's Basket** – This loan box contains replica artefacts, documents, and national curriculum-linked activities that can be used in the classroom. Learn to interpret artefacts, recognise different views of the past, and sequence events on a timeline, all while experiencing what it was like to live in the 17th century.

## KEY STAGE 2

**Who is Oliver Cromwell?** – This loan box contains replica objects, documents, and suggestions for national curriculum-linked activities. Explore who Oliver Cromwell was by exploring and interpreting artefacts, sequencing events on a timeline, and learning how our knowledge of the past is constructed from sources.

*'The Pedlars Basket Loan Box was a hit with my students! We explored each item and talked about how it was used. I learned more about Cromwell so I could tell the children more information this year. The resources made the lessons more exciting.'* – Year 1 Teacher.

	KS1	KS2	
	History	History	Art & Design
<b>WORKSHOPS</b>			
Intro to Life in Stuart Times	•		
Who was Oliver Cromwell?	•	•	
Evidence for Cromwell and his Life	•	•	
Civil War!	•	•	
Cromwell's Huntingdon	•	•	
Pictures of the Past	•		•
<b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS</b>			
Meet a Civil War Soldier!	•		
Who was Oliver Cromwell?	•	•	
Pictures of the Past	•	•	
<b>LOAN BOXES</b>			
Pedlar's Basket	•	•	
Who is Oliver Cromwell?	•	•	

## Prices and booking information

### PRICES

For our sessions, there is a charge of **£4.50 per pupil**, with a minimum charge of **£45 per group**. Adult staff, helpers, and carers are not charged for. Payment can be made either by cheque on the day, or by BACS. Our loan boxes are available to be hired for **£35 for one week** or **£40 for two weeks**.

### GROUP SIZE AND RATIOS

We can accommodate classes of any number. Due to the small size of the Museum, we often suggest that a class is divided into multiple groups and rotated through a number of sessions, such as a facilitated session in the Museum, a tour of historic Huntingdon or taking part in a facilitated activity in Huntingdon's Town Hall. We will arrange this with you when you book. For Key Stage 1 groups, the maximum number of students we can accommodate in an on-site session is 12. If your group is larger than this, please contact us so we can plan arrangements. All groups must be accompanied by responsible adults. We recommend the following minimum ratios:

- **Key Stage 1&2 – 1 adult to 6 children**

We are happy to arrange planning visits for staff at no additional charge. We also able to tailor our on-site and virtual workshops to your needs, both in terms of length and content.

### GETTING TO US

Coaches may drop off/pick up the group in Huntingdon Bus Station, less than 2 minutes walk from the Museum. The nearest car park is behind the Museum on St Germain Street (pay and display). The Museum is about 8 minutes' walk from Huntingdon Railway Station, which is on the East Coast line with regular trains from King's Cross and Peterborough. Our address is: Grammar School Walk, Huntingdon, PE29 3LF.

### FACILITIES

Multiple toilet facilities are available for schools use in the historic Town Hall, opposite the Museum on a pedestrianised street. Secure bag storage and lunchroom facilities are also available in the Town Hall, please enquire when making a booking.

### HOW TO BOOK

To book, please contact our learning team on **01480 702216** or email [learning@cromwellmuseum.com](mailto:learning@cromwellmuseum.com)

### ABOUT THE CROMWELL MUSEUM

The Cromwell Museum holds the best collection of objects relating to the life and times of Oliver Cromwell on public display in the world. The collection consists of over 800 items, including personal items belonging to him and his family, portraits, arms and armour, and historical documents written by or about Cromwell.

Oliver Cromwell (1599 – 1658) is one of the most important figures in British history. As a result of the English Civil Wars of the mid-17th century he became a soldier and a statesman of lasting fame and influence. He is the only commoner ever to have been the head of state in England. Cromwell is still a very controversial figure in British history, hated by some, held as a great man by others. The Museum aims to tell his story 'warts and all', and allow visitors to make their own minds up about him.