

Year 12 take on the National Gallery

So with little trepidation, on a warm day in June, a group of intellectually curious Woodford students visited the gallery and strode confidently from Titian to Turner as if they owned the joint. Which of course, in a way, they do. The National Gallery is for everyone, its treasures forever gifted to the nation. The students' confidence, however, was perhaps more so due to their having already visited once already. As part of a joint scheme with other East London schools, our Woodford representatives – most of whom, importantly, have not elected to study Art for A-Level – participated in a three-part enrichment scheme with guided tours to better acquaint them with the collection. Today was visit number two.

Each of the visits have been an enormous success. As well as exposure and familiarity, the students gained a great deal of confidence in approaching diverse artworks and applying their own critical eye to their subjects. By the end of the second visit, the students had worked in groups to curate their own mini-exhibition – an ingenious, inspiring task that enabled students to actively see themselves as the latest intellectual inheritors of their national artistic property. The students fed back that the visit was eye-opening and gave them a way into art enjoyment that they might otherwise not have had for many years to come.

We hope to continue running this valuable enrichment scheme next year.

Lee Pritchard, English Teacher



For some, the National Gallery can be an overwhelming place.

Alan Bennet once recommended a sign be installed above the entrance which read 'Don't worry: you don't have to like it all!'