
Teachers' Pack

Museum of Classical Archaeology



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Welcome

Thank you for choosing the Museum of Classical Archaeology for your school visit. This pack is designed to support all school visits, both museum-led and self-led. The pack is split into two main sections: before your visit and during your visit.

For any further queries about your visit please contact our Education and Outreach Coordinator, Martha Heemskerk, by email at museum@classics.cam.ac.uk or telephone (0)1223 767044. Please note: Martha's working hours are 9am-5pm, Tues-Thurs. If you have an enquiry outside of these hours, please contact the main museum (Tel. (0)1223 330402) and another member of staff will assist you. More information about the museum can also be found on our [website](#). Further details about our education service can be found under the [schools](#) tab.

We ask that all group bookings are booked in advance. Admission to the museum and use of our education service are free of charge. Donations are always gratefully received but are, of course, made at your own discretion.

You will have seen on your booking confirmation that we have some rules for group visits to keep our casts and our visitors safe. During a museum-led session there will also be explained to your group in an age-appropriate way.

- Children should be accompanied by adults at all times, including visits to the toilet.
- We are pencil only to protect our casts.
- For the health and safety of yourselves and the casts, please do not touch or lean on the objects or their bases. In addition, be careful with using pencils near them.
- Please do not run.
- Eating or drinking hot drinks is not allowed in the museum, but you are welcome to bring in water bottles.
- The museum is inside a university building, surrounded by offices, lecture rooms and a library. Please be aware of this as you move around the building.

Before your visit

Risk assessment

We offer the following guidance, which we hope will help when writing your risk assessment for your visit:

Teachers planning visits to the museum should note that this is a public building. Schools will be using the museum at the same time as other visitors. This includes the use of public lavatories with hot and cold running water.

Other possible risks include:

- Slip, trip or fall
- Injured whilst handling objects if participating in a handling session
- Struck by automatic glass doors

Highly unlikely risks may include:

- Falling down stairs
- Knocking over or breaking items on display
- Exposure to fire

Teachers and schools are responsible for completing their own risk assessments before visiting the museum. If you require further guidance, please contact our Education and Outreach Coordinator by email museum@classics.cam.ac.uk or telephone (0)1223 767044.

Before your visit

Museum introduction

This information is a general introduction to our collection. You may wish to share this information with your class before your visit, but this is not a requirement.

Are the statues 'real'?

The statues are all plaster casts (copies) of Greek and Roman statues from museums and sites all over Europe and the world.

Who made them?

Most of these copies were made by the Victorians, so they are quite old but not as old as the real Greek and Roman statues.

When and why was the museum opened?

The museum was established in 1884. In those days people couldn't travel around as easily and cheaply as today, so they couldn't go see all the originals which were (and still are) scattered around many places. Here you can see them all in one place.

They also didn't have good photographs or the internet to use. Can you see why looking at the statues 'in the flesh' is different from using pictures of them?

This has always been used as a teaching collection, and the children might like to know that many experts and students at the University of Cambridge use this museum for learning and teaching. The children are in good company!

During your visit

Arrival

As the museum is situated inside the building of the Faculty of Classics, it is essential that school groups arrive at the arranged time, to avoid bottlenecks in the Faculty building. Please wait outside the building on arrival until the arranged time of your visit, then make your way into the building and up the stairs to the museum. When you enter the museum you will be asked to sign your group in at the front desk.

We appreciate that groups are sometimes held up en route, especially if travelling long distances. Please do let us know if you will be late by calling (01223) 330402.

Supervision

Teachers and adult helpers are responsible for their students at all times during a visit. Please ensure that your students are actively supervised. Primary school students should explore the museum in small groups with an adult. Older students may explore the museum independently but we do ask that teachers are vigilant to their behaviour.

We recommend the following ratios:

1 adult : 7 primary school students

1 adult : 10 secondary school students

Unsupervised students and/or poor behaviour may mean that your group is asked to leave. Please note that our plaster casts are delicate and on open display. In the rare event of a breakage, your school may be charged for the damage.

During your visit

Toilets

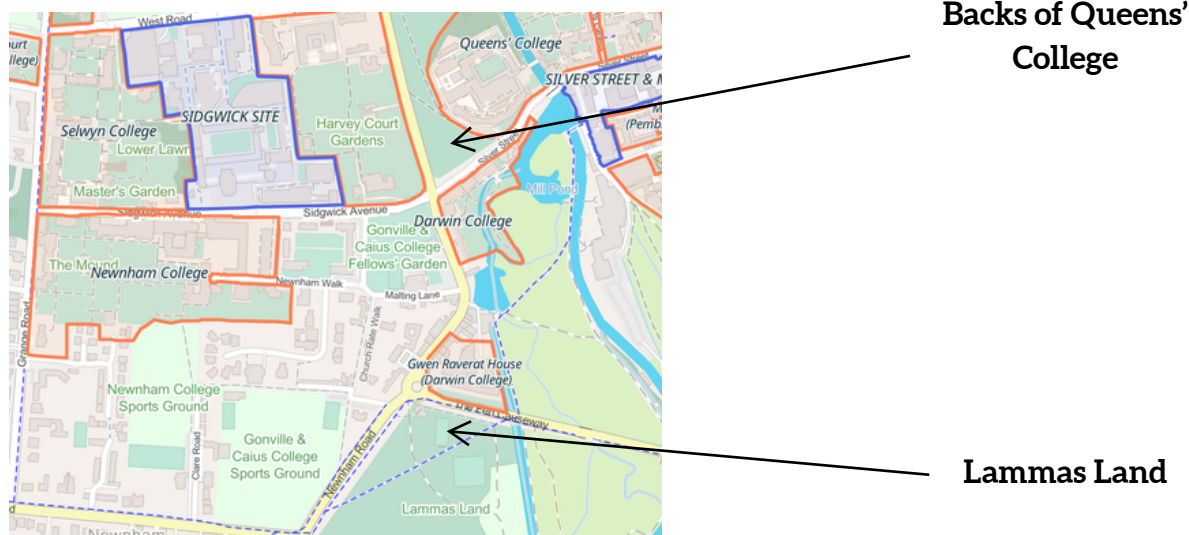
A small number of toilets can be found in the foyer of the faculty building. Groups may make use of the toilets in the foyer but should be aware that others will need to be able to get in and out of the entrance. Groups planning to use toilets on departure should leave in staggered groups to avoid congregating in foyer.

Cloakroom

The museum does not have a cloakroom but there are trolleys just inside the entrance of the museum in which groups may store coats and bags. Items are left here at your own risk. Groups with backpacks will be asked to leave these on the trolleys.

Lunchroom

Food and drink are not permitted in the museum. Unfortunately, the museum does not have a lunch room or café. Packed lunches should not be eaten on the Sidgwick Site, where the museum is based, but there are a few grassy areas nearby, which are well suited to having lunch in nice weather. These can be seen on the map below.



During your visit

Photography

Photography is permitted in the museum but only for personal, rather than commercial, use. Photography using a stand or special lighting is only permitted by special arrangement.

Art groups

We welcome visits from art groups but apply the following guidelines:

- Only pencil may be used to draw in the museum.
- You may move chairs around the museum but please take care not to block the main thoroughfare around the museum or any doorways, especially fire exits.
- Please do not remove chairs from the trolley. If more chairs are needed, please ask at the front desk.
- Artists should be careful not to lean on casts or their bases.

Illness

In the event of illness or an accident, please inform a member of museum staff as soon as possible. A first aid kit is available for minor injuries and appropriate medical attention will be sought for more serious afflictions. If a child vomits or has a nose bleed, please escort them out of the museum straightaway; a member of school staff should remain with the child.

Extreme temperatures

The museum has a glass roof and temperatures can become very high in summer and very low in winter. Please plan your visit accordingly. In summer museum staff will open windows, but do plan to bringing water. In winter the heaters will be turned on but gallery can still become cold, so dress warmly.

During your visit

Helpful tips

The galley is divided into separate bays and each bay is given a letter. The bays are all named alphabetically. The museum is arranged with the very oldest Greek statues in Bay A, the first bay as you come in. As you walk through the bays, you can see that the style of the statues changes – like a ‘Walk through Time’.

Please be aware that as we are a collection of plaster casts of Greek and Roman sculpture, many of our statues are nude. Our Education and Outreach Coordinator begins taught sessions by addressing the nudity and discussing why the statues are often unclothed. We aim to help students appreciate the differences between our own cultures and those which were thriving over 2,000 years ago. If you have students in your group of a sensitive nature or students who may be uncomfortable with this, you may wish to speak to your class, and adult helpers, about this in advance.

Shop

The museum does not have a gift shop, but we do have a small selection of postcards, posters and guide-books for sale, as well as our highlights pack which is especially useful for A-level students. Please note we can not accept card payments.

Enjoy your visit!