



PETERLOO1819.CO.UK
#PETERLOO2019



Press release

March 2019

Peterloo 2019 Learning Programme launched by Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham

A learning programme that explores the history and legacy of the Peterloo Massacre, 200 years on from this watershed moment in Britain's democracy, has been launched to **primary and secondary schools across Greater Manchester by Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester**, as part of the **Peterloo 2019** project.

When the Peterloo Massacre took place in Manchester on 16 August 1819, such were the scars of the events that would see a peaceful protest lead to bloodshed, that the impact is felt 200 years later and yet awareness levels have remained low. One of the lead areas of activity for Peterloo 2019, which is led by **Manchester Histories**, is to ensure that young people have the opportunity to connect with, explore and understand the legacy of Peterloo and its significance to them and their lives today. It aims to foster in young people a greater understanding and connectivity to politics, and their role as active citizens.

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, visited **Falinge Park High School in Rochdale** to officially launch the **Peterloo 2019 Learning Programme**, taking part in an interactive session with students, based on the Peterloo Massacre. The students and school have played a role in the creation of the resources that will accompany the learning programme.

Speaking at the launch **The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham** said: "It doesn't matter who you are, if you've got the right ideas you can make change happen. If you look at Greater Manchester's history of the TUC movement, votes for women, the co-operative movement, you can take inspiration from what can be achieved and in many ways Peterloo is the starting point of this.

“Our history is integral to shaping our future, and it’s important that we learn from our past to build on the values and principles of today. Peterloo was a significant date in Greater Manchester’s history and through this learning programme young people will explore the legacy of that day and the importance of free speech and democracy – values we often take for granted today.”

Janice Allen, Head of Falinge Park High School, said, “ Working with young people is full of optimism and hope for the future. We say to them, that for them to build the future, it is important that they learn from events in the past - locally, nationally and globally - as it is this learning which helps them to understand the present. By this I mean who they are, their unique identities, their communities and where they fit into society. The Peterloo Massacre is a key event which pupils should learn from. In identifying what took place and how this shaped our present they can use this to make the future a better place.”

Andreea-Elisa Carmaz, a student at Falinge Park High School, said, “Peterloo represents a brave step towards democracy. I consider it one of the most important moments in history - certainly for Rochdale and Greater Manchester. A courageous sacrifice which has changed our future. Who knows what harsh conditions we could be facing. We should be forever thankful for the people inspired by the Peterloo incident.”

Danyal Mohammad, a student at Falinge Park High School, said, “It is important to remember what happened in 1819, without the event England could be very different. We should remember the people who died that day as their deaths have not been in vain. We now have the right to vote, our voice is heard and considered by the government. This is why we should remember the Peterloo massacre - the lasting impact.”

The Peterloo 2019 Learning Programme has been created by Manchester Histories in partnership with **People’s History Museum**. The learning resources include lesson plans looking at everything from what took place at Peterloo and its aftermath to the role of citizenship today, activities to take part in, assembly presentations and more. These have been co-designed with **The Politics Project**, which specialises in supporting young people to use their voice by providing them with democratic education. The animated film that accompanies the resources has been created by the young people of youth leadership organisation **RECLAIM** facilitated by artists **Triple Dot Makers**.

The Peterloo 2019 Learning Programme has been made possible with the support of **Historic England** and **UK Parliament Education and Engagement Service**.

Michael Powell, Learning Co-ordinator Peterloo 2019 & Programme Officer at People's History Museum, said, "We have worked with historians, teachers and students to develop rich resources that will help young people to identify with Peterloo, not just looking through a historical lens, but very much from a contemporary perspective as we explore themes such as freedom of speech, democracy and protest. We've also done this by working with young people to produce the resources, which include an animated film in which young people oversaw the storyboarding, directing and creative treatment."

Peterloo 2019 also includes a programme of public events and creative community projects all of which has been supported by **The National Lottery Heritage Fund** and developed through partnership work with cultural organisations and communities. The learning resources will be available to anyone from **late April 2019**, when they will be free to download from Peterloo1819.co.uk Following this there will be a number of free introductory sessions for teachers taking place across Greater Manchester.

The Peterloo 2019 Learning Programme is part of a year of **Peterloo 2019** activities taking place to mark the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre, one of Manchester's most significant historical events. Other projects include a public programme of events taking place from June until August 2019. For further information visit Peterloo1819.co.uk and ManchesterHistories.co.uk

ENDS

For further information please contact Fido PR:

laura.sullivan@fidopr.co.uk / clare.short@fidopr.co.uk 0161 832 3588

A selection of images from the launch can be found here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rvq9g2clf8xaibu/AABPcAXFs0D7VLnlp6_avID9a?dl=0

Notes to editors

The Peterloo Massacre was a watershed moment that would mark Manchester as a radical city like no other and become a defining moment for Britain's democracy. On Monday 16 August 1819, a 60,000-strong crowd walked to the meeting point at St Peter's Field in Central Manchester from as far afield as Wigan, Rochdale, Saddleworth and Altrincham to call for parliamentary representation. Shortly after the meeting began and whilst the orator Henry Hunt was making his address, local government forces charged into the crowd on horseback and with swords drawn, injuring around 700 and killing 18 men, women and children.

About Peterloo 2019

Peterloo 2019 is led by Manchester Histories, with support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Working with key cultural organisations and communities across Greater Manchester it will deliver a programme of activity that combines public events, learning opportunities and creative exploration. For further information: Peterloo1819.co.uk

About Manchester Histories

Manchester Histories is a growing and dynamic charity. We work collaboratively with people, organisations and partners to reveal and celebrate the stories of the people and places that make up Greater Manchester. We connect people together to explore the past and shape the future through histories and heritage. Manchester Histories runs a yearlong programme of work as well as the magnificent Manchester Histories Festival.

For further information: ManchesterHistories.co.uk

About People's History Museum (PHM)

People's History Museum (PHM) in Manchester is the national museum of democracy, telling the story of its development in Britain: past, present, and future. The museum provides opportunities for people of all ages to learn about, be inspired by and get involved in ideas worth fighting for; *ideas such as equality, social justice, co-operation, and a fair world for all*. PHM offers a powerful programme with annual themes; 2018 looked at representation and commemorated 100 years since the first women and all men won the right to vote in Britain, 2019 sees a year of activities around protest movements to mark the bicentenary of the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester, and the programme for 2020 will be on the theme of migration and identity. Recent winner of Kids in Museums Family Friendly Museum Award.

For further information: phm.org.uk

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)

Thanks to National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about – from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. heritagefund.org.uk. Follow NLHF on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund.

Peterloo 2019 partners

