



National  
Museums  
Scotland

# Secondary School Programme 2026–27

*“Very well-organised,  
with knowledgeable staff  
who were excellent with  
our learners.”*

S2 teacher, Perth and Kinross

Explore our  
schools offer

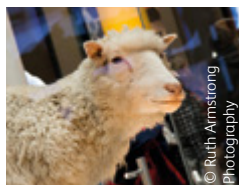


*Bookings  
open 10 Aug*

# Inspire curiosity and critical thinking through our world class collections.

From Scottish history and the natural world to science and technology, sustainability, art, design and global cultures, we cover it all at our four museums across Scotland.

Our sessions support Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Meta-skills framework.



## National Museum of Scotland

Discover the history of Scotland, the wonders of nature and diverse cultures, scientific breakthroughs and exquisite art, design and fashion.

Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF  
0131 247 4041  
schools@nms.ac.uk

## National War Museum

Learn about the story of Scotland at war, within the walls of Edinburgh Castle.

Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh EH1 2NG  
*Self-led visits are booked via Historic Environment Scotland*  
learning@hes.scot

## National Museum of Flight

Explore the history and science of aviation from the First World War to the present day at this former airfield.

East Fortune Airfield, East Lothian EH39 5LF  
0131 247 4238  
schoolsnmof@nms.ac.uk

## National Museum of Rural Life

Experience life in the countryside and explore learning for sustainability at our museum, farmhouse and historic working farm.

Wester Kitchside, East Kilbride G76 9HR  
0131 247 4377  
schoolsnmorl@nms.ac.uk

## Bring learning to life with free school visits

Plan your own visit. Enjoy downloadable trail sheets and classroom-ready resources, plus access to a cloakroom\* and lunch space\* (subject to availability).

*\*Excludes National War Museum*

## Online resources

Support learning before, during and after your visit. Access a wide range of free digital resources, including trail sheets, films and interactive activities.  
[nms.ac.uk/Resources](https://nms.ac.uk/Resources)

# Exhibitions National Museum of Scotland

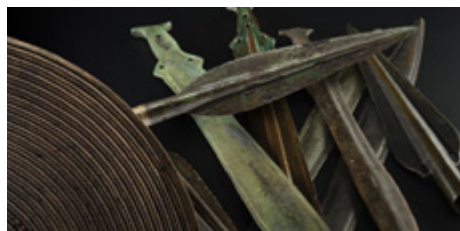
## Scotland's First Warriors

27 Jun 2026–16 May 2027

Discover the origins and impact of conflict in prehistoric Scotland. The exhibition explores how and why people fought, the impact of war, and the legacy of prehistoric conflict through over 250 objects from the Neolithic period (late Stone Age) to the Romans.

**Free**, booking required

[nms.ac.uk/FirstWarriorsSchools](https://nms.ac.uk/FirstWarriorsSchools)



## Roman Scotland: Life on the Edge of Empire

14 Nov 2026–18 Apr 2027

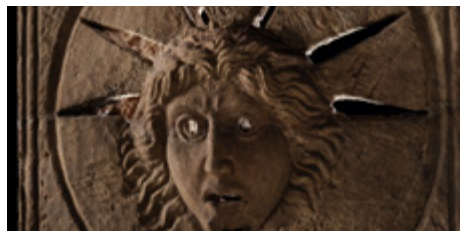
Reconsider Scotland's relationship with the Roman world. Pupils will discover objects and stories from a diverse frontier community, including finds from a 2nd century AD Roman fort at Musselburgh in East Lothian. The exhibition explores how local groups responded to Roman presence, from conflict to cooperation, and the impact of these encounters.

Schools exhibition slots available Mon & Fri, 10:00–12:00.

**£4 per pupil**, booking required

Adults free (1 adult to 10 pupils)

[nms.ac.uk/RomanSchools](https://nms.ac.uk/RomanSchools)



# Special study days National Museum of Scotland

## Behind the Seams: Fashion at the Museum

Thu 1 Oct 2026

Senior Phase Art & Design, 5 hrs

Pupils will meet professionals from the world of fashion, including our curators and conservators, and learn more about our collections, career pathways and contemporary issues in fashion. They will then explore our *Fashion & Style* gallery and take part in a sustainable fashion workshop.

**£10 per pupil**, booking required

[nms.ac.uk/FashionMuseum](https://nms.ac.uk/FashionMuseum)

## DNA and the Genome: A Question of Taste

Various Nov dates

Higher & Advanced Higher Biology and Human Biology, 5 hrs

Students explore their own DNA in this hands-on PCR masterclass delivered with University of Edinburgh scientists.

*Please note this workshop is available to Scottish local authority schools only.*

*Delivered in partnership with the University of Edinburgh.*

**£10 per pupil**, booking required

[nms.ac.uk/DNA](https://nms.ac.uk/DNA)

## Buddhism Discovery Day

**FREE**

Thu 10 Jun 2027

Higher & Advanced Higher RME

This full day workshop offers pupils an in depth introduction to Buddhist beliefs and practices. Activities include a guided meditation led by a Zen Buddhist priest, a live Q&A with a Thai Buddhist monk, talks from leading scholars in Buddhist Studies, and an investigative object hunt at the National Museum of Scotland.

*Delivered in partnership with the Edinburgh Centre for Buddhist Studies*

**Free**, booking required

To book, contact [halle.oneal@ed.ac.uk](mailto:halle.oneal@ed.ac.uk)

[nms.ac.uk/BuddhismDay](https://nms.ac.uk/BuddhismDay)

# Workshops

## National Museum of Flight

Sessions run on set **Wednesdays & Thursdays** during term time. Booking includes a dedicated staff member or volunteer to guide your whole visit.

### National Museum of Flight workshop prices

**£110** UK schools

**Free:** 20% of our sessions are available free of charge to schools located in SIMD 1 & 2 areas (where at least 60% of pupils are also classified as SIMD 1 & 2) and all special/ASL schools (Scotland only). Free coach travel is also available to support these visits. Offer subject to availability.



### Cold War Scotland

**NEW**

Wed 30 Sep & Thu 1 Oct  
Third & fourth level (S2–S6), 60 mins

Explore the aircraft and missiles on our historic airfield and hear stories from the Cold War. Then get hands-on with real objects from the period.

[nms.ac.uk/ColdWarSchools](https://nms.ac.uk/ColdWarSchools)

### Flying Friction

Wed 19 & Thu 20 May  
Third level (S1–S3), 60 mins

Investigate flight, forces and energy loss through hands-on experiments.

[nms.ac.uk/FlyingFriction](https://nms.ac.uk/FlyingFriction)

## Don't miss

**Careers Hive (26–29 Oct 2026) FREE**

Our free immersive STEM careers event for S1–S3 pupils at the National Museum of Scotland.

*In partnership with Edinburgh Science*  
[sciencefestival.co.uk/careershive](https://sciencefestival.co.uk/careershive)

## Schools enews

Sign up to our regular enews to keep up to date with our schools activities throughout the year.

[nms.ac.uk/SchoolsSignUp](https://nms.ac.uk/SchoolsSignUp)

