

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sandford Award Presented to Titanic Belfast

Titanic Belfast joins leading historic houses, museums, galleries, such as Hampton Court Palace, Brunel's SS Great Britain and Edinburgh Castle, as it is awarded the prestigious Sandford Award for Heritage Education 2015.

The Sandford Award is an independently judged, quality assured assessment of education programmes at heritage sites, museums, archives and collections across the British Isles.

Titanic Belfast now joins a select group of approximately 350 heritage education providers, who recognize the importance of developing and maintaining the standard of excellence for learning outside the classroom.

The award recognizes Titanic Belfast's education offering, which now offers a total of eight workshops and two guided tours covering a wide variety of subjects ranging from maritime communication, marine science and exploration to 5 star customer service.

The judges described Titanic Belfast as "an assault on the senses and emotions that leaves pupils with a rewarding appreciation and respect for our oceans and an excitement for future exploration and research, borne out of the interactive displays. The highlighting of the domestic and industrial life of Belfast with the emphasis on the engineering skills of the early 20th century in the City, makes a telling contrast to the sad story of The Titanic, poignantly, in the place she was conceived and created."

Siobhán McCartney, Titanic Belfast's Learning and Outreach Manager, commented, "At Titanic Belfast we are passionate about sharing our enthusiasm for RMS Titanic, Belfast and its maritime, industrial and social history and are delighted to be recognized for continuing to develop the standard of excellence of learning outside the classroom."

Having recently taken over operations of the SS Nomadic, Titanic Belfast has a growing menu of education workshops. The Learning Team has developed a 'New Beginnings' workshop for Key Stage 2 pupils on board which focuses on European emigration in the early 20th century. This workshop compliments Titanic Belfast's new Brave New World guided experience for schools.

The Learning Programme is supported by the Survitec Group, a leading manufacturer of marine, defense and aerospace survival technology. It has been working with Titanic Belfast as its education partner since 2014. For more information, visit www.titanicbelfast.com/learning.

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Notes to Editors

About Titanic Belfast

Titanic Belfast is an iconic six-floor building featuring nine interpretive and interactive galleries that explore the sights, sounds, smells and stories of Titanic, as well as the City and people which made her. It is the World's Largest Titanic exhibition.

The building houses temporary exhibits, a banqueting suite, education and community facilities, catering and retail space, and a basement car park. Visitors learn about the construction of RMS Titanic and the wide and rich story of Northern Ireland's industrial and maritime heritage. Supported by the Northern Ireland Executive, Titanic Belfast is a unique public/private partnership funded by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Belfast City Council, Belfast Harbour and Titanic Quarter Ltd. It is operated by Titanic Belfast Ltd and owned by the Titanic Foundation Ltd. For more information, please visit: www.titanicbelfast.com

Titanic Belfast's Education Programme

Titanic Belfast offers eight workshops for Education Groups.

My Granda's Piece Tin is a special programme for 6-to-8 year olds which looks at life for young apprentices at Harland and Wolff during the 1940 to 1970 era. The children take a one-hour workshop that looks at the lunch break in the yard; the contents of the men's "piece tins" and the games they played. The second half of the programme is a living history tour of some of the galleries where, dressed like an apprentice and guided by an apprentices' supervisor, they hear stories, sing and then cheer as Olympic is launched.

Dit and Dah is a workshop that looks at long range communication methods and is most appropriate for 8-to-12 year olds. There are three components to the workshop; an introductory, information based presentation, a practical activity based session where the pupils try three communication methods (Morse code, semaphore and signal flags) and then a plenary activity in the form of a strengths and weaknesses analysis of the methods they tried.

The Panel is aimed at secondary aged students and the delivery can be adjusted to suit 11-14 year olds right up to 18 year olds. Students are given access to primary source material in the form of excerpts from the Titanic inquiry testimonies. They must decipher the archaic and, at times, legalistic language and use active learning techniques to work out what the witnesses feel went wrong. They then role play as members of a board of inquiry advisory panel giving advice to the legislative bodies of 1912 who must write new laws to help prevent the tragedy ever happening again.

Dipping Your Toe is a workshop suitable for students aged 8-14 years old and is an introduction to Ocean Literacy which will encourage them to think proactively about the wider world around us. Participants will find out about the importance and operation of our oceans, how we negatively impact on them and what we can do as individuals to protect them for the future.

Exploring the Depths will allow pupils to dive deep into the ocean to uncover hidden shipwrecks and discover the world of modern ocean exploration. Using our unique interactive learning environment pupils will discover the zones of the ocean and some of the specialised creatures that live there. Pupils, aged 8 -14, will come away with a new appreciation and respect for our oceans, and will be inspired by the future of ocean exploration and scientific research.

From White Star to Five Star gives students an opportunity to meet Titanic Belfast's crew and ask questions about Northern Ireland's first ever 5 Star tourist attraction. It is suitable for students

studying Travel and Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management from GCSE to Foundation Degree Level.

Abandon Ship has been designed to provide an opportunity for pupils to further develop important transferable skills in communication, problem-solving and decision-making as well as promoting self-confidence, self-esteem, co-operation and teamwork. The workshop is based around the scenario of being the crew of 3 yachts which collide with an iceberg and must abandon ship into the liferafts (Actual liferafts supplied by Survitec Ltd).

New Beginnings, takes place on SS Nomadic and is designed for KS2 pupils, and concentrates on its and Titanic's links with emigration and the story of 20th century emigration from Europe, particularly Ireland. It draws of the emotions of men, women and children who made the brave decision to leave all they knew behind.

The Learning pages on www.titanicbelfast.com contains tailored information for teachers. We provide thorough logistical information about planning a visit, what happens while with us, and a risk assessment document that is suitable for education group leaders.

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