

PRESS RELEASE

Friday 5 June

For Immediate Release



Benjamin Franklin House Eductaion Programme awarded Learning outside the Classroom Quality Badge

Benjamin Franklin House is among the first venues in the country to be awarded the “Learning outside the Classroom Quality Badge” by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom. The Quality Badge is awarded to venues meeting the Council’s high quality indicators (such as assistance in planning and preparing the learning experience effectively; providing accurate information about the offer; meeting the learner’s needs; reviewing the experience and acting upon feedback; meeting the needs of users and efficient safety management processes), and is intended to assist schools in identifying providers including museums and historic buildings who deliver high quality teaching and learning experiences.

Benjamin Franklin House is a unique living history museum and educational facility in the heart of London close to Trafalgar Square. Built in 1730, this Grade I listed building is the only surviving home of scientist, inventor, philosopher, diplomat and US Founding Father Benjamin Franklin who lived here for nearly 16 years between 1757 and 1775. The House, at 36 Craven Street, retains many period features and serves as a fascinating insight into the way

Georgian Londoners lived, as well as providing information on Franklin's important scientific discoveries.

Every Tuesday the House is closed to the public, and offers free education sessions to London schools. Sessions are aimed at key stage 2, illuminating strands of the National Curriculum in history, science, English, citizenship and design and technology. An interactive "Historical Experience" allows pupils to experience the excitement of Franklin's years in London, in the company of Polly Hewson, daughter of Franklin's landlady, who became like a second daughter to him. Live demonstrations in the Student Science Centre, such as Franklin's lightning experiment, highlight the process of invention. The hands-on activities are simple, structured and stimulating to capture children's imagination, enabling them to be involved in the process of investigation and encouraging pupils to observe, think, and draw their own conclusions.

Scientific enquiry, investigation and the process of inventing are also in the focus of our free outreach activities.

Following-up a visit at Benjamin Franklin House, our Education Manager visits schools with Ben's Travelling Suitcase, a valise full of facsimiles related to Franklin at Craven Street, delving into some of Franklin's key inventions and allowing students to become inventors for the day. Benjamin Franklin House also runs a special Science Day, an inter-schools event, giving children the opportunity to watch a professional scientist conduct fascinating experiments. At the follow-up, the Annual Benjamin Franklin Science Fair, children are able to use and develop the skills associated with scientific enquiry by creating

their own project grappling with timely questions – which Franklin also posed in the eighteenth century - such as “How can we get more energy with less fuel? They are supported by our education Manager who assists and guides their projects. Incredibly, all of these activities are available to schools free of charge!

For more information and images, please contact Sarah Chaney, Marketing & Development Manager, on 020 7839 2006 or sarah@benjaminfranklinhouse.org

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Notes to Editors

1. Benjamin Franklin House is located at 36 Craven Street, WC2N 5NF. Opened to the public on Franklin’s 300th birthday, 17th January 2006, the House exists as a new kind of museum, using cutting edge technology in the Historical Experience, enriching educational experiences through its free schools programme, and providing regular special events and lectures.
2. The House is open to the public every day throughout the summer (closed on Tuesdays during term-time), with historical and architectural guided tours on Mondays (priced £3.50), Family Fun Days on Tuesdays throughout August (£3.50 adults, free for children, 11am and 2pm), and the Historical Experience Wednesday – Sunday (£7 adults, £5 concessions, free for under 16s, running at 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3:15 and 4:15). There is a small shop onsite.