

October 2025

Art History Link-Up Highlights of 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 academic year was one of the busiest and most transformational for Art History Link-Up since we were founded in 2017. We are extremely proud of everything we have achieved this year and we would like to extend our thanks to all our generous funders, supportive advocates, partners and trustees, dedicated teaching team, and above all, our committed and curious students, for enabling us to achieve the successes outlined below:

- 2024-2025 was one of our busiest years to date with over 200 young people, from 101 state schools around the UK, participating in our programmes.
- In a sector with low social mobility and diversity, it is a significant achievement that over 70% of our students this year identified as belonging to an ethnic minority and over half had widening participation indicators.
- We launched a potentially transformational course for younger pupils, aged 13-15, running three pilots during the year to refine and improve the course. The ten-week taught Art History course is centred around a Higher Project Qualification (the HPQ award is equivalent to half a GCSE and moderated by Pearson Edexcel). Our long-term ambition is that these courses are offered in UK schools and other centres, with our resources and support, thereby enabling a much larger number of young people to benefit from access to art history, cultural enrichment and creative skills development.
- We ran our sixth form courses at the Courtauld from September 2024-July 2025 over a total of 30 Saturdays allowing over 80 students from 64 schools to study on our free-of-charge A level Art History and Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ) morning and afternoon courses. Of this number 53% were based outside Greater London. All of our 2025 externally-assessed candidates were awarded their qualifications.
- We piloted two HPQ courses in London (and online) over 15 weeks each from November 2024 and April 2025, with the individual projects pursued by students (aged 13-15) inspired by the world-class Courtauld collection.

- We piloted an Art History HPQ course at Waddesdon Church of England Secondary School in Buckinghamshire from March-June 2025, with students creating their own 'cabinets of curiosity' based on the collection at and history of Waddesdon Manor, and their own personal history and interests.
- We are extremely proud of the many university offers our 2024-2025 cohort received. This September, we have alumni studying Art History in every undergraduate year group at the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford, and the Courtauld.
- We have revived our Young Patrons scheme to build an engaged group of younger donors and built more organisational capacity to support the increased work the charity is undertaking.
- We were honoured to convene influential voices across the sector, from Sir Michael Craig-Martin and Jussi Pylkkänen (art consultant and until recently Global President, Christie's), to Professor Mark Hallett, Director of the Courtauld.
- We have presented and participated in several industry and sector opportunities including a Speakers for Schools (now Futures for All) event which reached 500 students across 33 UK schools. We hosted the Christie's Education x AHLU Scholarship Award for a third year, offering five deserving students the opportunity to win a laptop provided by Christie's Education and access to their esteemed online courses. And we brought together key organisations and individuals committed to promoting art history through a programme of roundtables aimed at shaping the sector through collaboration.
- Thank you to all our partners, and most especially this year, for their support of our HPQ pilots and development at the Courtauld, Waddesdon Manor, and Waddesdon School.
- Thank you to all our funders in 2024-2025, and especially Abbott & Holder, The Astra Foundation, ML Astor's Charitable Trust, The Hattie Bennet Memorial Fund, Boisdale, Christie's, The Circles of Art, The Duke of Devonshire's Charitable Trust, Garfield Weston, The Grocers' Charity, The Heller Foundation, James Allen's Girls' School, The Linbury Trust, The Lovington Foundation, The Modern House, Outset Contemporary Art Fund, The Rothschild Foundation, The Swire Charitable Trusts, The Worshipful



Company of Arts Scholars, Victoria Yanakova, and all AHLU's individual supporters, our much-valued Benefactors, Patrons and Young Patrons.

The 2025-2026 academic year holds huge potential for us as we continue to develop game-changing HPQ courses while continuing to deliver our respected A level and EPQ courses in partnership for the fourth year with the Courtauld.

In addition to our programmes we are currently undertaking formal evaluations of our work to better understand the impact of our programmes and the journeys which our students take. We hope this research will unlock some important findings which we can share widely with those delivering cultural enrichment and arts programmes for young people in the UK.

For more information, and to find out about how to support our work, please contact: info@arthistorylinkup.org