

Press Release: 7 August 2026

**ART HISTORY LINK-UP CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF MAKING ART HISTORY AVAILABLE
TO ALL AND LAUNCHES AMBITIOUS NEW CAMPAIGN**

Art History Link-Up (AHLU) will celebrate its 10th Anniversary this autumn with the launch on **6 October 2026** of a new campaign to make Art History accessible to every schoolchild in the UK.

With fewer than 1% of British state schools offering Art History at A Level, the Charity provides free, accredited Art History courses to state school students who otherwise would not have access to the subject. It serves as a vital gateway to career paths in the UK's world-leading creative industries.

Working in partnership with significant collections such as the Courtauld, the National Gallery, Sir John Soane's Museum and Waddesdon Manor, AHLU's in-person and online courses have been attended by more than 600 young people from over 250 schools across the UK since it was founded in 2016, reaching students in more than 4% of all UK state secondary schools, and over 16% of London state secondary schools.

AHLU will mark its 10th Anniversary with the launch of new initiatives to emphasise the benefits and impact of studying Art History and to drive future growth:

AHLU has begun piloting a new introductory course for younger students aged 13-15, based around a Higher Project Qualification, with the ambition it could be utilised directly by schools in the future. The pilots have been extremely popular and are a potential gamechanger for access to Art History.

The organisation is also undertaking external evaluations, one in partnership with the History of Art Department at the University of Cambridge, to help better understand the impact and influence of Art History and AHLU's methods of teaching. Working with the many AHLU alumni who are currently reading or have read Art History at the University of Cambridge (20+ since 2020), the new research will provide valuable new insights into the teaching of art history.

Alongside these initiatives, AHLU is supporting the development of Art History teachers and arts teaching more generally, providing much-needed support to the sector. Through AHLU's teaching the Charity is also helping to make museums and historic collections relevant to a younger generation.

Rose Aidin, Founder & CEO, Art History Link-Up said: "I can think of no better way to mark our ten years than by securing Art History's place in the curriculum, evidencing its transformative impact, and diversifying the arts sector for generations to come."

AHLU's tenth anniversary campaign includes the launch of a new short film; including contributions by Dame Hannah Rothschild DBE and Professor Mark Hallett, Director of the

Courtauld; an advocacy event with AHLU alumni students acting as expert guides; a publication celebrating AHLU's ten years of access to Art History for students from diverse backgrounds; and a summit celebrating and advocating for access to the arts for young people in collaboration with AHLU's long-term supporter and partner, Christie's Fund for the Arts.

AHLU has been generously supported by the Rothschild Foundation as its founding funder, and has built long-term partnerships with the Courtauld, the National Gallery, Waddesdon Manor, the Wallace Collection and Christie's among others, including more recent partners such as Sir John Soane's Museum and Classics for All.

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Notes to Editors:

Art History Link-Up

Art History Link-Up was founded in 2016 by Rose Aidin MBE, a qualified Art and Art History teacher, who recognised that thousands of young people were effectively excluded from a subject that could transform their relationship with culture, critical thinking and the arts.

Beginning with a single course at the Wallace Collection, AHLU quickly established itself as a pioneering force in arts education, building partnerships with some of the UK's most significant cultural institutions and developing a model of free, accredited teaching that has since reached over 600 students from more than 250 state schools across the UK.

Over the past decade, AHLU has grown steadily and strategically, expanding from Art History A Level and EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) provision into the development of HPQ (Higher Project Qualification) Introduction to Art History courses for younger students aged 13 to 15, piloted successfully at Waddesdon Manor, the Courtauld at Somerset House, and online.

A research partnership in association with the University of Cambridge's History of Art Department has explored an extraordinary phenomenon: over 20 AHLU alumni have studied or are studying Art History at Cambridge since 2020, with five more awarded places for 2026-7.

This year AHLU alumni were present in every Art History undergraduate year group at Cambridge, Oxford and the Courtauld.