



Chawton House



Education Visits Guide

Chawton House, near Alton in Hampshire, was known to Jane Austen as the 'Great House', as it was owned by her brother Edward. Jane lived in a cottage on his estate and would stroll up to 'dawdle away' many an hour in the grand Elizabethan manor and its picturesque gardens.

Today, the House, Gardens and Parkland are home to many treasures. Whilst our unique library of women's writing and our connections to Jane Austen make us a natural home for literature students, our educational packages also aim to inspire a new generation of young people with interests in history; business; the creative, leisure, and heritage industries; and gardens and the environment.



We are committed to providing a stimulating and open environment for students at all stages of their educational journey. We encourage students to immerse themselves in the atmospheric setting and to enjoy the tangible history on offer at Chawton House. From getting to grips with *Frankenstein* to planning a heritage display, from understanding the garden's features to learning about Chawton House's only female squire, there is something for everyone.



Educators can craft a visit from a selection of guided tours, workshops and talks, with student groups looked after by our dedicated team of experienced house and garden guides, or by members of the curatorial team.

Our Tours

INCLUDED IN THE ENTRY PRICE

Garden Tour (1hr, 30)

Discover the beautiful gardens of Chawton House and learn the history of their transformation from the formal layout of the 17th century through to the restored English landscape style of the late 18th century.



House History Tour (1hr, 15)

Learn how the estate has evolved over the years, eventually providing a secure home for Jane Austen in one of its cottages and discover the many captivating secrets of the 'Great House': superstitious anti-witch marks on the fireplace, a message in a bottle from a Victorian squire, hidden Regency graffiti, and a fascinating collection of women's writing.



Curator's Tour (1hr, 15)

Find out more about the unique collection of early women's writing held in the library at Chawton House by exploring the books, objects and their stories with one of Chawton House's curatorial team, who will guide you through the current exhibition.



Our Workshops

£150 PER WORKSHOP | Groups of up to 12

These interactive sessions (1.5–2 hours), which are adaptable to suit different ages and stages, will give students the opportunity to delve a little deeper into an area of Chawton House’s collections or operations. Sessions require minimal preparation, and are run by an experienced member of the Chawton House team. They include a prep sheet (provided in advance where necessary), group activities and discussion, some book handling, and takeaway materials.

Writing Women’s Rights

Explore the ways that early feminist writers started some of our most important current debates, from gender difference to education, equal pay to #MeToo.

‘The Art of Freezing the Blood’:

Gothic Literature by Women

Learn about the development of Gothic fiction by the eighteenth-century women writers who created some of our most memorable monsters and villains.

Jane Austen’s Library

Consider the ways that Austen’s novels can be seen as “the work of many generations”, examining the literary influences on an Austen novel of your choice.

Heritage Skills: Curating an Exhibition

Work closely with a member of the curatorial team to locate an item with an untold story at Chawton House and tell it in a fresh way.

Our Talks

£100 PER TALK | Onsite or Offsite options

Jane Austen's Library

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Gothic Literature by
Women

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The Polite Academy:
an introduction to the
Regency Period

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Love through the Ages

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Curating an Exhibition

Our core talks focus on some of the most exciting areas of our collections, and can be tailored for different educational levels. We can offer talks onsite for smaller groups all year round, and for larger groups during low season. Alternatively, we can provide online talks or we can come to you in person.

"So many students have come forward to express how fun it all was and how very engaging you made the whole topic. They particularly liked how relevant you made it to their lives [...] They have had an incredible learning experience today"

Zoe Richardson,
teacher of English,
Frensham Heights



Prices:

Schools & Colleges

£6pp (under 16)

£8pp (under 18)

Universities

£10pp

Availability:

Low season (November to Easter) Monday-Friday

High season (Easter-Halloween) Monday & Tuesday

Parking:

With prior notice, we can accommodate up to 38-seater coaches in the house car park.

Coach and car parking is also permitted on the local road, leading off the main entrance drive.



Refreshments:

Tea, coffee, biscuits / Tea, coffee, cake

£4pp / £5pp

Seasonal soup & fresh roll

£5pp

Picnic box

£7pp

Cream tea

£5pp

During high season, groups of 15 or under will be accommodated in the house, whilst larger groups will be catered for in Dyer's Barn. In low season, groups will be accommodated in the Old Kitchen Tea Room where possible.

For further information and to book, visit
<https://chawtonhouse.org/visit/education/>