

Merchant Adventurers' Experience themes and activity plans 2026

Tudors

- Introduction to the Hall & Merchant Adventurers (this includes life in Tudor York)
- Tudor trading game-children have the opportunity to become Tudor Merchant Adventurers, travelling across Europe and trying to make their fortune!
- Henry & Elizabeth letters-opportunity to view letters written by Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, object handling with replica seals and quills
- Tudor fashions, what would our Merchant Adventurers have worn? Opportunity for some children to try on some Tudor costumes
- Dance of the Tudor Court- learning a Tudor dance!
- Early Music workshop-option to include 30-minute session with an early music expert

Medieval

- Introduction to the Hall & Merchant Adventurers (this includes life in medieval York)
- Medieval trading game-children have the opportunity to become Medieval Merchant Adventurers, travelling across Europe and trying to make their fortune!
- The Undercroft & Trinity Hospital, the lower floor of the Hall was used as an Alms House for over 500 years. Children will hear the stories of four medieval York residents who applied for a place, who will they give a place to and why?

The History of Trade

- Introduction to the Hall and Merchant Adventurers
- Tudor trading game-children have the opportunity to become Tudor Merchant Adventurers, travelling across Europe and trying to make their fortune!
- Hall Hunt-exploring the history of trade through our collection of objects and paintings

Victorian York & the Industrial Revolution

- Introduction to the Hall and Merchant Adventurers and the Industrial Revolution in York
- The Undercroft & Trinity Hospital, the lower floor of the Hall was used as an Alms House for over 500 years. Children will hear the stories of 4 Victorians who applied for a place, who will they give a place to and why?
- Industrial Revolution game- children have the chance to become successful industrialists! Will they risk their money on chocolate or the railways?!
- Building a business in 1850s York-working in groups the children will develop their business ideas, thinking about the types of products and services popular in Victorian times

Medicine through the ages

- Introduction to the Hall and Merchant Adventurers
- Medieval medicine activity-the children will explore different elements of medieval medicine such as plants, seeds and honey, matching them to the cures
- The Undercroft & Trinity Hospital, the lower floor of the Undercroft was used as an Alms House for over 500 years. Children will hear the stories of 4 Victorians who applied for a place, who will they give a place to and why?

Shakespeare

- Performance of Romeo & Juliet by Fourwheel Drive Theatre
- Q & A session with the actors

- Tudor & Jacobean portraits activity-children have the opportunity to explore some of our early portraits (Shakespeare period) and sketch their own versions and learn about the hidden meaning in portraits
- Shakespeare fashions, what would our Merchant Adventurers have worn during this period? Opportunity for some children to try on some costumes
- Shakespeare quotes game

Entertainment & Leisure in Britain through the ages

- Introduction to the Hall
- Early music workshop
- Feasting activity-using menus from our archive, the children will put together a feast from four different periods of the Hall's history
- Traditions of the Hall activity-acting out and learning about some of the traditions of the Merchant Adventurers' near 700 year old history