

# ARTefacts

## Imagined Identities



The Langley Academy students exploring Slough Museum's loan boxes



Students engaging with the artefacts and selecting their favourite artefact



Students used old maps of Slough and photographs to collage their boxes



Students exploring how to create their boxes with Creative Practitioner Miranda Millward



Students creating their boxes in response to Slough Museum's collection

'Imagined Identities' was created by students at The Langley Academy in Slough, in response to their exploration of artefacts from Slough Museum's unique social history collection.

Slough has a rich and diverse history and the Museum has a wealth of objects which celebrate the town's history. The Museum's loan boxes were chosen as the inspiration for the project, so that the students could really engage with the artefacts by getting close to them and handling them.

Working with Creative Practitioner Miranda Millward, Art Teacher Beth Brock, Museum Learning Co-ordinator Suzie Parr, Year 7 students began to imagine the lives of the people that once owned, made, or used the artefacts contained in these loan boxes. These artefacts included a World War II Air Raid Warden's rattle and helmet, Victorian domestic 'tools', and products made on the famous Slough Trading Estate.

Each student then selected the artefact that they

were most interested in and created their own 'box' representing the artefact and the life of an imagined person connected with the chosen artefact.

In thinking about the presentation of their artwork, the students took inspiration from Joseph Cornell, whose work uses collage, collections, artefacts and memories to create beautiful cabinets of curiosity inspired boxes.

60 students worked on the project creating their own boxes, 10 of which have been selected for the final 'imagined identities' artwork.

'Imagined Identities' shows how 'old' objects can be re-imagined, re-worked and reconnected to the present, through the student's exploration of the artefacts to see the relevance to themselves.

By engaging with artefacts from Slough Museum's collection, the students were able to learn about their local heritage, and to make connections between their own lives and the lives of people previously living and working in Slough.