

Victorian Day

AT BEAUMANOR HALL

The historically significant Beaumanor Hall is a superb venue for a local history study. Students will have the opportunity for experiential and empathetic learning beyond the classroom. The impact of the Herrick family on Beaumanor and its environs will be a feature of the day. This will be interwoven with the lives of Victorian school children and servants.

Core activities:

Arrive and welcome

Victorian History of the buildings and the Herrick family

Photo Trail

This map-based activity allows the children to work in groups, exploring the grounds and the architectural features of the manor house. It also encompasses basic map reading skills.

Victorian Schoolroom

Please note, the Beaumanor teacher will be in role for this activity. The children will experience a Victorian lesson. They will practise copper-plate handwriting and do arithmetic.

Servants in the Cellars

The children are given a tour and history of the main rooms in the Cellars from the point of view of the servants who used to work at Beaumanor. They will then have some time to role-play using the artefacts:

Laundry Room – equipped with washing implements such as dolly tubs, possessers, mangles and water pumps

Dressing Room – children examine the differences between clothes from history and children's clothes of today by dressing mannequins with full Victorian costume

- Linen Room – equipped with irons, linen, table
- The Bread Kitchen Museum Room – equipped with original bread and pastry ovens, weighing scales, kitchen implements

Playground Games

If there is time, the children may play a selection of traditional playground games, such as 'Looby Loo' and 'The Farmer Wants a Wife'.



For schools with 37 - 72 visiting pupils, please split your group into 2. Our instructors will lead all the activities.

For schools with 73+ visiting pupils, please split your group into 3.

There will be a half-hour lunch break when your staff will be required to supervise the children

Coming to Beaumanor in Victorian Costume

It will make your day more enjoyable if you, your leaders and your children come to Beaumanor in costume, with a period packed lunch. It will enable the children to get a much better feel for the period and will highlight some of the things you will undoubtedly have been telling them about Victorian life and manners.

1) Costume

The day will be very loosely set around the 1850s-1860s, which is around the time that the Hall was completed. Your group can be children of the estate workers and servants, allowed to come to the Hall as a special treat. If possible, the children should not wear watches or jewellery:

Girls

Long sleeved, high necked blouses and dresses or calf/ankle length skirts

A pinafore and mob cap, a shawl (optional)

Tights and outdoor shoes

Hair in plaits, bunches or ringlets, pinned up or neatly brushed

A warm outdoor coat
(as we will be going outside)

Boys

Long sleeved shirt, long trousers or breeches, long socks and outdoor shoes/boots

Neckerchief or muffler, waistcoat and flat cap

A warm outdoor coat (as we will be going outside)



2) Packed Lunch

The packed lunches should reflect the fact that plastic bags and lunch boxes had not been invented, there were almost no fast foods and most food was plain, simple and local. Some suggestions:

The food

Cheese sandwiches and/or bread and jam

Cooked ham, boiled eggs and pickle

Gingerbread biscuits, sugar mice, apples and pears

Ginger beer or old-fashioned 'flat' lemonade in a glass bottle (if safe)

The containers

Wrapped in greaseproof paper and tied up in a plain tea towel or piece of sheet


Carried in a cloth satchel or wickerwork basket.

More information

For more information or to book a visit please call **01509 890119** or email beaumanor.hall@leics.gov.uk

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