Royal West of England Academy to be transformed thanks to £350,000

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The award will fund the restoration and transformation of the main galleries, including the introduction of new environmental controls so that the academy can display more of their own and other historic collections. As part of the project, 30 of the most at risk works of art will be restored so they can again be enjoyed by visitors to the academy

Nerys Watts, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund South West, said: “The beautiful Royal West of England Academy building is well known to most Bristolians. Fewer people, however, are aware of the wonderful collection of important works of art that are housed here. By revitalising the gallery spaces and restoring some of the works that are most at risk, this will take the first steps in opening up the collection to new visitors.”

Trystan Hawkins, Director, said: “I am very excited about the investment from HLF, it will enable us to bring world-class exhibitions to Bristol/west of England and significantly improve the experience for everyone visiting the Royal West of England Academy.”

As well as enhancing the galleries themselves, the HLF award will also help fund the appointment of a Learning and Participation Officer to engage with the collection in exciting and new ways. This new programme strand will work with a range of different audiences including, families, children and young people, people with disabilities and others.

The Royal West of England Academy houses over 1,200 works of art spanning nearly 160 years. It was built 150 years ago as a gallery and art school. The Italianate façade makes this one of the most striking buildings in Bristol, and the interior features murals by Walter Crane - his last public commission - are of both architectural and heritage importance.

Notes to editors

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported 33,900 projects, allocating £4.4billion across the UK, including £411million to 3,100 projects across the South West.

Further information

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