

Young People from Mind the Gap Theatre Company and Carlton Bolling College at Magna Carta on Trial day Tim Smith

As the eyes of the world settle on the principles of freedom and justice marked by the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, young people in Yorkshire have been investigating its historic origins and considering its ongoing legacy.

On 15 June, young people from Horizon Community College, Barnsley Youth Council, Mind the Gap, Freedom Studios, Grange College and Carlton Bolling College celebrated the sealing of the Magna Carta with performances in Barnsley and Bradford. These young people have been on a journey of discovery finding out about the history and context of the Magna Carta but also the vital role it has played in establishing the principles of freedom and justice and the development of human rights.

Horizon Community College has investigated the Magna Carta and its influence on other important historic documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They have used the knowledge that they gained to create their own ‘Grand Charter’ of human rights which they signed 800 years to the day under banners depicting the key themes highlighted in their Charter.

Mind the Gap and Freedom Studios have been working with diverse groups across Bradford to help young people with and without learning disabilities to explore the context within which the Charter was forged. In sessions with HH Judge Jonathan Rose they have discussed how the Magna Carta has influenced the rule of law, and ideas of freedom and democracy. Their public commemoration event was hosted at Bradford City Hall’s Council Chambers.

More events will follow throughout the year as both schools continue their work to produce short films that will help others to find out about the Magna Carta and its importance.

If you are feeling inspired by the Magna Carta and other upcoming anniversaries then contact the Yorkshire and the Humber Development Team at vandhdevelopment@hlf.org.uk.



Jude Wright, Creative Partner at Freedom Studios, Anna Gray from Mind the Gap and HH Judge Jonathan Rose Tim Smith



Carole Souter, Chief Executive of the Heritage Lottery Fund

How Magna Carta still inspires us, 800 years on