

## Teachers Guide to the Newstead Gallery

This Teachers Guide is for adults working with small groups. Adults should read through the guide before the visit.

Alternatively, worksheets for the children are available on our website. (Grosvenor Museum / Education / Our Resources) or follow links on [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**We strongly recommend that you print and copy worksheets or The Teachers Guide for your gallery time.**

### Look at the model at the end of the gallery:

Q: *Why did the Romans build a fortress here?*

A: The river protects the Romans from the enemy (the Celts) on the other side

A: They were looking for precious metals that were found in the hills near-by

A: The river was useful for ships coming in from the sea carrying soldiers, wine & olive oil

Q: *How else did the Romans protect themselves?*

A: They built a fortress with very high walls and only 4 guarded gateways in to it.

### Look at the 'Every Day Life' cases.

Q: *Which objects were used for health, cleanliness and beauty?*

A: Mirror, tweezers, perfume bottles, strigil (olive oil scraper)

Q: *What other 'every day' objects can you find in these cases?*

A: Oil lamp, candlestick, keys, spoon, knife, bowl, bottles, jars.

### Look at the area called 'Bones'.

Q: *What everyday items could be made of bone and antler?*

A: Dice, pins, necklace, knife, game counter, dice shaker, whistle

Q: *How old was this man when he died?*

A: He was in his early 20s

### Look at the wall with the locked little door.

Q: *How does a Roman lock and key work?*

A: Experiment with the door

Q: *What treasured possessions did the Romans keep under lock and key?*

A: Money, a coin mould, a 'lucky' figure, jewellery

### Look at the Roman roof and the 'Building Materials' in the case.

Q: *What is stamped into the Roman roof tile (tegula)?*

A: Leg XX VV (= Legion 20 Valeria Victrix) – a Legion was made up of around 5000 men. Valeria Victrix was their special motto meaning Brave and Victorious.

Q: *What is your school motto?*

### Look at the Legionary Case.

Q: *Choose 3 things and explain why the soldiers needed them.*

### Find the case called 'Pottery Vessels'

Q: *What kind of things would the Romans put in these enormous jars?*

A: Wine, olive oil, fish sauce

Q: *Why do you think the Romans needed wine, olive and fish sauce?*

A: Wine – to disinfect things. Olive oil – to use as soap. Fish sauce – to flavour food.

### Look at the case called 'The Walls'.

Q: *What is the centre stone of the arch called and why was it important?*

A: Without the 'Keystone' the arch falls down.

# Teachers Guide to the Webster Gallery

This gallery contains a collection of tombstones, altars and monument stones.

**Tombstones:** These stones give us information about the soldiers of the Leg XX VV (Legion 20 Valeria Victrix, the group of soldiers who were based in Deva).

**X = 10**

**V = 5**

**IIII or IV = 4**

**L = 50**

Find the painted model tombstone of Caecilius Avitus at the end of the gallery.



### What Stone No 3 says:

**DM** (Dis Manibus)  
**Caecilius Avitus, Emer(ita)**  
**Aug(usta)**  
**Optio Leg XX VV** (Legion XX  
 Valeria Victrix)  
**Stp** (stipendiorum) **XV**  
**Vix(it) XXXIII**  
**HFC** (heres faciendum curavit)

### What Stone No 3 means:

To the spirits of the departed:  
 Caecilius Avitus, of Emerita  
 Augusta (in Spain),  
 Optio of the 20<sup>th</sup> Legion 'Brave  
 & Victorious',  
 He spent 15 years as a soldier,  
 He lived 34 yrs.  
 His son had this stone made.

Now find the Caecilius's real tombstone. Can you see the numbers?

**Your turn:** find some other numbers on the stones. Use the clues below to find out what they tell us about the soldier?

What is written on the stone	The Latin words	What it means
VIX or VIX AN	Vixit ... Annos	He lived ... years
STP or STIP	Stipendiorum	Years of service in the army
LEG XX VV	Legio Vicesima Valeria Victrix	20 <sup>th</sup> Legion, Brave and Victorious

**Mythology:** Some of the monument stones on the right show mythological scenes.

Q: Look at the objects in the curved "wall" to see what kind of personal belongings were often buried with the body to make them feel 'at home'?

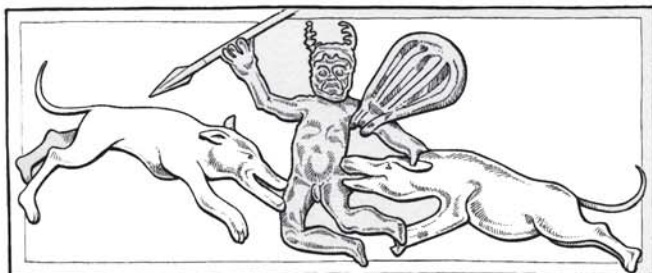
Q: Find Acteaon (see picture below) - What did the Goddess Diana turn him into?

A: *A deer / stag and he was chased by his own hunting dogs.*

Q: What is Curatia Dionysia doing? (see below). What sea creatures are on her stone?

A: *She is having a banquet. Tritons. These are both symbols of a happy life after death.*

Q: Find the stone of the husband and wife. How do their clothes compare with ours?



Acteaon



Curatia Dionysia

**Safety Notes:** Please do not let the children touch the stones or put objects behind the lectern on the 'grass'

Further information is available in '**Roman Chester – a Teachers' Resource Pack** which can be purchased from the Museum Shop. Tel: 01244 972112.