





STAFF

The Royal Household's Employee Engagement Survey took place at the end of 2017 and showed an increase in the levels of engagement across Royal Collection Trust. A number of internal communications initiatives introduced after the previous survey in 2015, including a regular Director's Report to staff and biannual Directors' Briefings, are thought to have contributed to this positive result.

Over the past year Royal Collection Trust has continued to focus on developing skills in managers. A further 22 members of staff have either completed or commenced a leadership and management programme, including a qualification from The Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) and the Royal Household Emerging Leaders Programme, which develops strategic thinking.

Sabbaticals allow senior curators and conservators to step back from their day-to-day roles and research an area of the Royal Collection, expand their knowledge or develop their skills within partner organisations. Martin Clayton, Head of Prints and Drawings, completed a sabbatical researching and writing a catalogue for the forthcoming exhibitions *Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing*. Caroline de Guitaut, Senior Curator of Decorative Arts, spent time as a visiting scholar at Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens in Washington D.C., and undertook research at the Russian State Historical Archives, The Hermitage Museum, and the Fabergé Museum in St Petersburg for the forthcoming exhibition and catalogue *Russia: Royalty & the Romanovs* and the catalogue raisonné of works by Fabergé in the Royal Collection.

Royal Collection Trust supported six curatorial and conservation internships over the year and welcomed a number of student placements. Decorative Arts intern Sophie Croft was the first appointment in a new annual internship supported by The Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars. In July 2017 the Collections Information Management team was joined for two months by Muhammad Azam bin Adnan from the School of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester and the recipient of a Commonwealth Scholarship. Two trainees

from the Strengthening Our Common Life (SOCL) scheme, Alice Houghton and Tanaya Basu De Sarkar, achieved a Diploma in Cultural Heritage on the completion of their year-long placement. During the summer the Paintings curatorial team was assisted by ten students from Art History Link-Up, a charitable organisation based at the Wallace Collection and The National Gallery in London promoting Art History A-Level at non-fee-paying London schools. Work-experience student Afsana Shahajahan joined the furniture conservation workshops for a week in July 2017 through the Lord Mayor of London's Cultural Scholarship Scheme. Eleanor Lanham and Matthew Stockl completed the first year of their five-year Queen's Bindery Apprenticeship Scheme. Two further apprentices, Laura Hollingworth and Emily Macmillan, started in the Royal Bindery in October 2017.

OPPOSITE Afsana Shahajahan working on the base of a mounted Sèvres tureen as part of the Lord Mayor of London's Cultural Scholarship Scheme.

BELOW A Warden shows two young visitors the new multimedia tours introduced at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace, this year.

