



CASTLE HOWARD

Teacher-led Tour

Key Stage 2

VANBRUGH300

Presented by THE GEORGIAN GROUP



Welcome to Castle Howard! We are delighted that you and your class have come to visit us. This teacher-led tour has been developed to provide an engaging introduction to Castle Howard as part of the Vanbrugh 300 celebrations.

There are 9 stops on the tour that allow children to explore the exterior, interior and grounds of Castle Howard. This guide will support you to explore with ease. Each stop contains FACTS, QUESTIONS and ACTIVITIES to keep the children curious and engaged.

The tour should take between 50 minutes and 1 hour. The route around the house is easy to follow and maps are also included in this guide to help you. Our friendly room guides are available throughout the house to help or answer any questions that you or the children may have. The suggested activities can be completed either during the tour (if you have time) or back at school as you wish. The children will be given a worksheet to complete as they do the tour along with a clipboard and pencil. Please make sure you return these at the end of your visit.

Happy exploring!

TOUR STARTS AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO CASTLE HOWARD

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Welcome to Castle Howard!
- Today we are going to be explorers. We will explore both the outside and inside of this grand house to see what stories and secrets we can find out about the people who have lived here in the past and those who live here now. We are also going to step back in time to imagine what it would have been like to live here when it was built 300 years ago.

QUESTION: Can anyone tell me the name of the person who designed and built this grand house? (Answer: Sir John Vanbrugh)

How many facts can you remember about Sir John Vanbrugh?

Walk along the side of the house (or all the way round if you are feeling adventurous) Find a suitable place to stop where you get a good view of the house and deliver the next section of the tour.

STOP 1

EXTERIOR OF THE CASTLE HOWARD (15 mins)

FACT:

- This was the first house that Sir John Vanbrugh designed. He had never designed a building before. He was friends with the 3rd Earl of Carlisle, Charles Howard, who asked him if he would design him a house!
- John Vanbrugh had help from a friend of his to design Castle Howard and his name was Nicholas Hawksmoor. We'll find out more about him later.

Question: Does it look like a castle to you? What is different?



FACT:

- The house was built on the site of the medieval castle of Henderskelfe over 300 years ago. This may explain why it is called a castle even though it is actually a stately home.
- A stately home is a very big, very old house that belongs to a rich or important family. They are much bigger than the houses most people live in today, with lots of rooms, huge gardens, and sometimes lakes, farms, or forests around them.

QUESTION: Can you guess how long Castle Howard took to build? [Answer: 100 years]

FACT:

- Castle Howard has been lived in by eight generations of the Howard family. The first was Charles Howard, the 3rd Earl of Carlisle, who, with his friend Sir John Vanbrugh, built the house in 1699.
- Since then, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and so on have taken care of the house and gardens. Each generation has added something new – gardens, art, buildings, repairs – so the Castle you see today is the result of more than 300 years of one family's history.
- Now the house is home to Nicholas Howard, his wife Victoria and their dog Poppy.

QUESTION: What do you think it would be like living in a house like this? Think about how it would be different today from what it was like 300 years ago? Maybe we will discover more about this as we explore.

ACTIVITY: As you walk around the outside of the house, complete the Shape Hunt activity on your worksheets. Can you find these 2D or 3D shapes anywhere on the outside of the house? Note down on your worksheets where you see them. You can continue to complete this activity when we go inside the house as well.

BEFORE WE GO INSIDE CASTLE HOWARD...

...we need to remember 4 important things:

- There are other people looking around the house today so we need to be considerate of them by keeping our voices low and listening well to instructions.
- There are lots of red ropes in the house which are there to show us where to go and where not to go so look out for these.
- The furniture and ornaments in the house are very old and valuable so we must not sit on any furniture or touch anything that we shouldn't as tempting as this might be!
- There are lots of friendly guides in each of the rooms who know lots about the house and its history so if you have any questions you can feel free to ask them and they will be happy to help.

Return to the main house entrance where you started and enter through the door.

STOP 2 GRAND STAIRCASE (5 mins)

FACT:

- The Grand Staircase built in the 1870's is the main entrance to the house for visitors. What can we find here?
- Look up above you at the ceiling. This ceiling is a centuries old version of a skylight like ones you might have in your house. It lets in lots of light meaning it is as bright in here as it is outdoors.

QUESTION: Can anyone tell me what shape each of the glass panels are?
(Answer: Octagons) Add this on your worksheet.

Can you have a guess at how many glass panels there are? (Answer: 74)

FACT:

- The works of art on the walls are called 'bas-reliefs' and are like flat sculptures made from plaster. They are mainly copies of very old artworks from Ancient Greece and Rome that the generations of the Howard family collected on their travels.

CAN YOU SPOT... a horse on one of the bas-reliefs?
Tick this off on your worksheet.



STOP 3

LADY GEORGINA'S BEDROOM AND DRESSING ROOM (5 mins)

Turn left at the top of the stairs and along the corridor before turning right into Lady Georgiana's bedroom. The next few rooms have limited space so we will have a very short stop in each as we move through the rooms.

FACT:

- This is Lady Georgiana's bedroom. She was the wife of the 6th Earl of Carlisle, George Howard. This bed is about 250 years old!
- Can you imagine sleeping in a bed like this? It is very high so they often had to have a step just to help them get into bed! The canopy comes down around you so it's a bit like sleeping in a very grand tent.

Move through to the next room - Lady Georgiana's dressing room

QUESTION: What similarities and differences can you see between your bathroom at home and this one?

CAN YOU SPOT... The toilet in the cupboard. Tick this off on your worksheet.

Move through the next bedroom and back out onto the China landing at the top of the Grand Staircase.

STOP 4

ANTIQUÉ PASSAGE (5 mins)

FACT: The Antique Passage at Castle Howard is a long, quiet hallway filled with old statues and treasures collected from Italy by the 4th Earl of Carlisle about 300 years ago. It's a bit like walking through a museum inside a house.



Head slowly along the Antique Passage. It turns left about halfway along.

CAN YOU SPOT...

- **A man with a hat that looks like a pot.**
- **A statue of a child. How many statues of children can you find?**

QUESTION: How many different types of animal can you find in the statues? Tick them off on your worksheet. The lion is the Howard family emblem. Can you find any lions here?



At the end of the Antique Passage you will then turn right into the Great Hall.

STOP 5
THE GREAT HALL
(5 mins or 15 mins with activity)

FACT:

- When you walk in, you're standing in the most dramatic room in the whole house. It was designed to make visitors go "WOW!" the moment they stepped inside.
- The Great Hall is so tall that if you stacked four double-decker buses on top of each other, they'd still fit inside.
- This is one part of the house that John Vanbrugh's friend Nicholas Hawksmoor helped him with. He was also an architect and had worked with Sir Christopher Wren to design the dome on the top of St Paul's Cathedral in London which you might have heard of? Castle Howard was the first private house in England to have a dome.
- Originally, the inside of the dome was painted with a giant picture of gods and goddesses from ancient myths. It was like a storybook on the ceiling.
- Sadly in 1940, a fire swept through the Great Hall and the beautiful ceiling painting was destroyed and the dome collapsed. The dome was later rebuilt and re-painted restoring it to its former glory.

QUESTION: How does this room make you feel? What is your favourite part of this room?

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: (Can also be done back at school)

Imagine that you are an artist and you are asked to repaint the inside of the dome to show a new story. What story would you choose to match this grand and impressive room? Sketch your design on your worksheet.

Walk directly across the Great Hall and into the Garden Hall. The normal tour route takes you upstairs at this point but speak to one of the room guides who can help you find your way to the Garden Hall. Once in here turn right into the Tapestry Drawing Room

INTERESTING FACT FOR TEACHERS!

[The Garden Hall featured heavily in the TV series Brideshead Revisited (1981). In fact it was actually restored following the fire specifically for the filming]

STOP 6

THE TAPESTRY DRAWING ROOM (3 mins)



FACT:

- This room was completely destroyed in the fire and it was left as an empty shell for 85 years only being restored and reopened last year making it the oldest, newest room at Castle Howard.
- These giant wall hangings are called tapestries. They were woven over 300 years ago. Luckily they weren't in this room during the fire and so weren't destroyed. They represent the 4 seasons.

QUESTION: Can you guess which tapestry represents which season? What clues can you see in the images?

Continue along here, through the Music Room and into the Crimson Dining Room

STOP 7

THE CRIMSON DINING ROOM (2 mins)

FACT:

- Today this room is a grand dining room. It was originally the State Bed Chamber, a room prepared for a King or Queen.

Question: Remember that the symbol for the Howard family is a lion. Look around the whole room. How many lions can you see in this room? Where are they? Tally or count them and add this to your worksheet.



Continue along here, through the Turquoise Drawing Room and the Museum Room and then turn right into the Long Gallery. Walk through until you get to an Octagon-shaped room - The Octagon.



STOP 8

Long Gallery and Octagon (5 mins or 10 mins with activity)

FACTS:

- This huge room is called the Long Gallery. It's one of the longest rooms in any English stately home at 50 metres long – that's longer than five double-decker buses parked end to end.

QUESTION: The part of the room that we are in is called the Octagon. How many sides does it have?

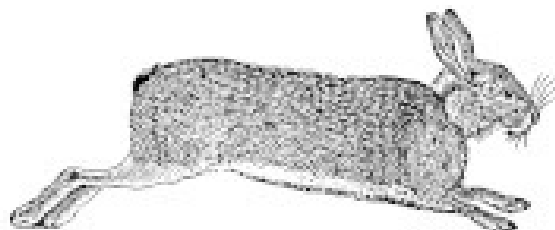
- In the 1700s, people used long galleries to exercise inside when the weather was bad. Over the years the Howard family have used the Long Gallery for concerts, parties and dances. Nicholas Howard, who lives here now, used to roller skate in this room when he was your age!
- There are a lot of portraits here of the different generations of the Howard family. It's a bit like walking through a family photo album.
- This room has been on TV in the series *Bridgerton*.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: (Can also be done back at school)

In the frame on your worksheet can you draw a portrait of yourself in the style of one of the portraits with a wig and the clothes of the time?

Finally, walk to the end of the Long Gallery then follow the signs to the gift shop and exit. As you leave the house turn left and then left again and head towards the Atlas Fountain.

If you are visiting the fountain after midday it should be in full flow!



STOP 9

ATLAS FOUNTAIN (10 mins incl. walking)

FACTS:

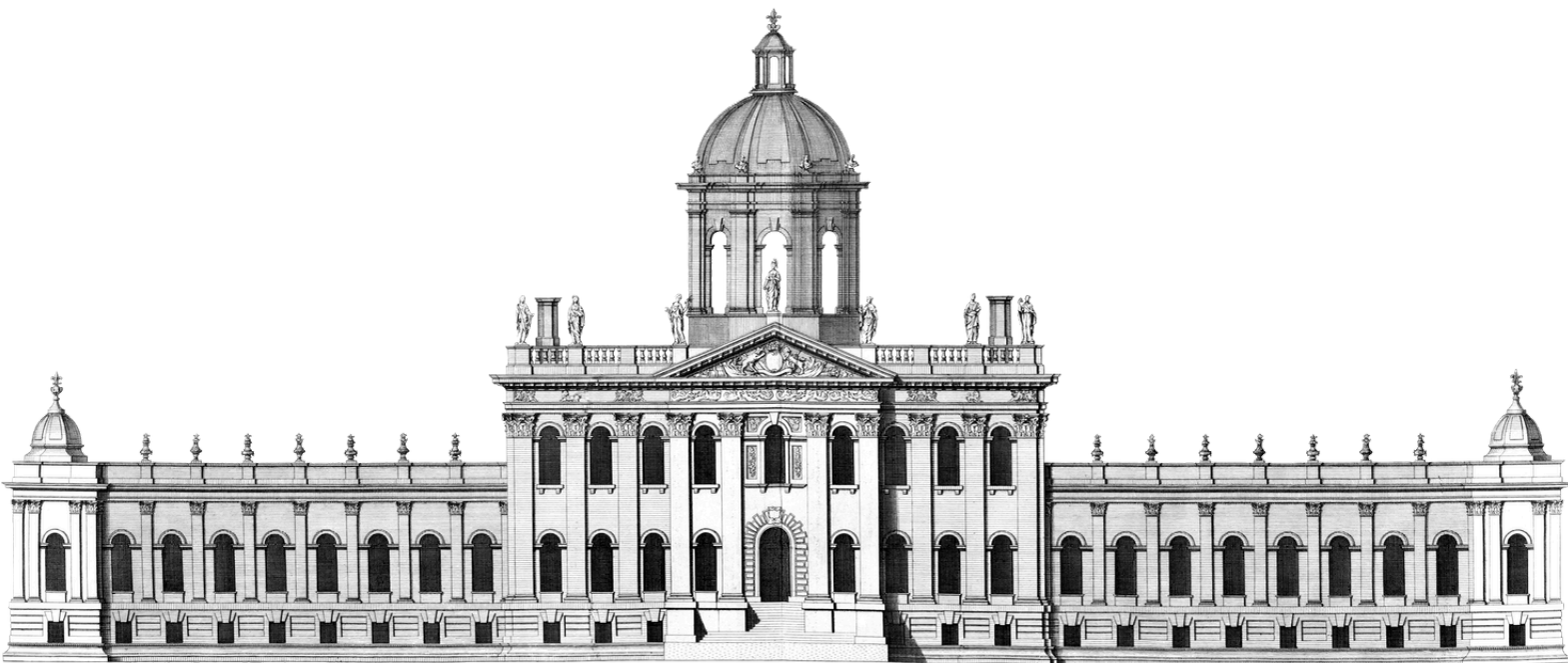
- At the centre of the fountain is Atlas, a Titan from Greek mythology, kneeling under the weight of a giant globe. In the myth, here was a huge battle where the Titans fought the Olympian gods. Atlas fought on the losing side, against Zeus. As punishment, Zeus made Atlas hold up the sky forever so it wouldn't fall onto the Earth. A book of maps is called an Atlas, named after this mythical figure.
- Around the fountain you can see four Tritons (half man/half sea creatures that are blowing water through conch shells).

QUESTION: The fountain works without any electricity or pumps. How do you think this is this possible?

[Answer: The water comes from the Ray Wood Reservoir, which sits 70 feet higher than the fountain. The water rushes downhill through pipes and creates powerful jets without any pumps at all.]

- The fountain is Victorian and has been splashing for 170 years!

END OF TOUR



EXTERIOR OF HOUSE MAP (STOPS 1 and 9)



INTERIOR MAP (STOPS 2 - 8)

