



**CREATING THE  
WORLD'S FIRST  
CHILDREN'S  
CAPITAL OF  
CULTURE.**



Embassy for  
**ReIMAGINING**  
Rotherham



# HELLO!

In 2025, Rotherham will become the world's first Children's Capital of Culture. It's a big title for a borough with a big dream.

Our journey to 2025 will officially take off in February 2022, as we celebrate Rotherham's incredible culture, creativity, and community with a week-long Children's Capital of Culture launch festival, created together with young people in our borough.

And it doesn't stop there. Between February and June 2022, we want to give every child and young person in Rotherham the chance to get involved in designing the Children's Capital of Culture programme, and play their

part in shaping the borough's future through a colourful series of events, workshops and collaborative opportunities.

We will also be using this time to give young people in Rotherham more life-changing training and skills opportunities than they've ever had before, that will make a lasting impact on them and on our borough.

Are you ready to become Children's Capital of Culture 2025? Together, we will make Rotherham a place that young people are proud to call home.

# THE LAUNCH FESTIVAL

## WHAT'S ON

### INTO THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY

From Monday 21st February – Sunday 29th May, Clifton Park Museum, free.

Clifton Park Museum will take you *Into The Realm of Possibility*, an interactive exhibition co-curated with our young producers. It tells the story of Children's Capital of Culture, celebrates youth and childhood through objects from our museum's collection, and gives you the chance to share your ideas for the future.

This bold and colourful exhibition will showcase work from our young Artists in Residence who have been filming and photographing the behind-the-scenes development of the programme.



It will bring together stories and childhood memories from across the generations and act as a home for Children's Capital of Culture over the next four months, with a programme of talks, tutorials, workshops and classes.

## SKATE AND ARTS FESTIVAL

### ROTHERHAM SKATE AND ARTS FESTIVAL

22nd-24th, Rotherham Town Centre, free.

Join us for Rotherham's first ever Skate and Arts Festival, an action-packed few days of skateboarding, biking, art installations, floor murals, art workshops, music and more!

### UPLIFT

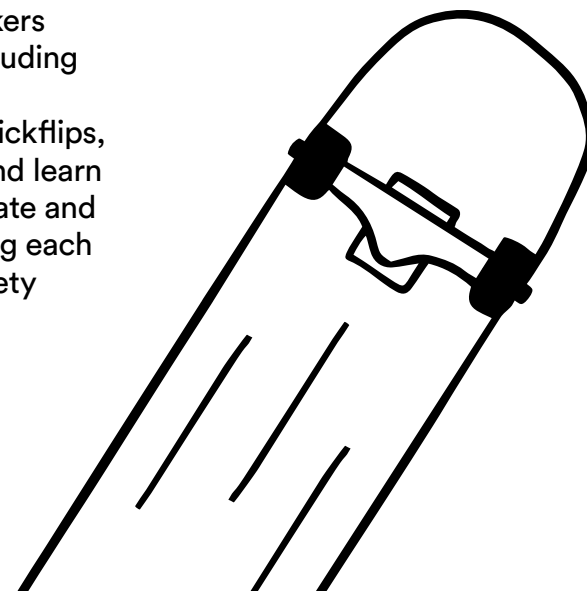
10am-3.30pm, 22nd-24th February, Rotherham Town Centre, free.

Rotherham's Town Centre will be transformed into 'Uplift', a colourful pop-up skate park created by Art of Protest. Meet Olympic BMX bikers and skateboarders, including Jack Clark, who will be performing their best kickflips, ollies, and laser flips, and learn their tricks with free skate and BMX workshops running each day. All wheels and safety equipment provided.

### ROBOT SELFIE

All day, 22nd-26th February, All Saints Square, free.

Robot Selfie, an artistic robot from UK-based production studio Kaleider, will land in All Saints Square and create a huge 10 x 8 metre mural of Rotherham's young people. If you'd like to see yourself painted by a robot, just upload your selfie on-site and watch it being spray painted onto the giant canvas. For live updates on social media, follow #PaintedByARobot #RobotSelfieRotherham.



## SKATE AND ARTS FESTIVAL

### STENCIL AND SPRAY PAINTING WORKSHOPS

10am-3.30pm,  
22nd-24th February,  
Effingham Street, free.

If you're a graffiti lover, or just fancy trying out something new, join us at our free drop-in stencil and spray painting workshops. These fun, colourful and informative sessions each last about 45 minutes, and you can come and learn the fundamentals of design, stencil making, spray painting techniques, can control and drop shadowing.

### STICKER MAKING AND SCREEN PRINTING

22nd-24th February,  
Old Town Hall, free.

Come along and have a go at pop-up screen printing with Carousel Print Studio, or design and create your own skate inspired stickers with graphic artist Ed Syder, at our free drop-in sessions.



Sticker making sessions are taking place on Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th at 10am-12noon and 1-3pm. Screen printing sessions are taking place on Wednesday 23rd at 10am-12noon and 1-3pm.

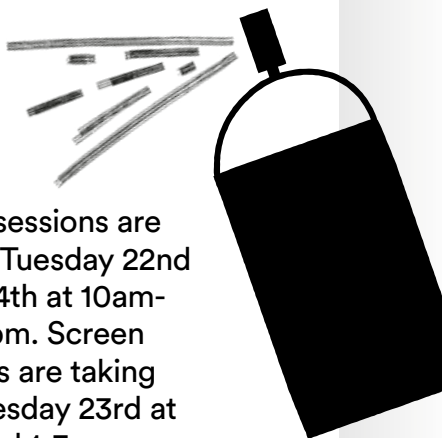


### LIVE MUSIC & STREET FOOD

24th February, town centre, free.

Listen to local bands, including Skint Knees, Blood Stained Reputation and Undies, who will be playing live on stage. You can also pick up some delicious food from one of the on-site street food stalls.

Image — © Hannah Smillie,  
CCOC Young Artist in Residence

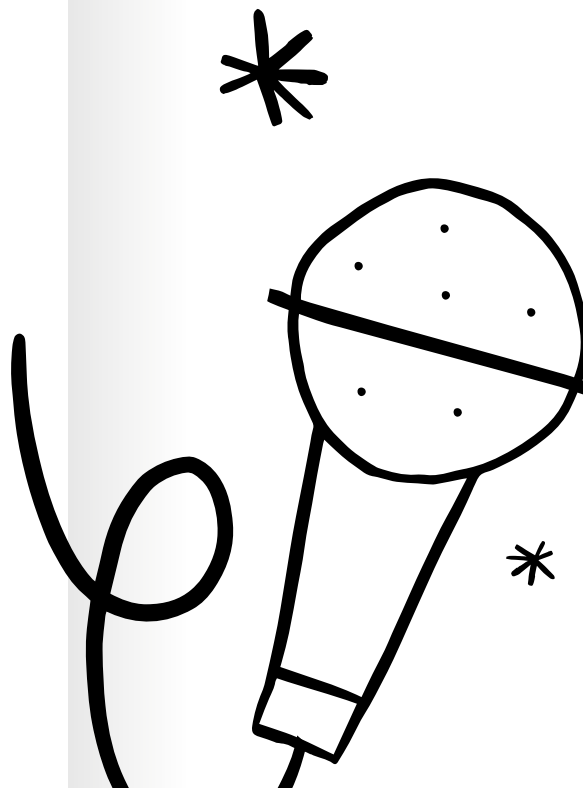


### TRUTH TO POWER CAFÉ

7.30pm on 24th and 25th  
February, Rotherham Civic  
Theatre, £12 (£9 concession).

Jeremy Goldstein's acclaimed Truth To Power Café is coming to Rotherham Civic Theatre. This uplifting and empowering performance will feature eight local young people telling their personal stories and answering the question 'Who has power over you, and what do you want to say to them?'

Tickets are available from:  
[www.rotherhamtheatres.ticketsolve.com](http://www.rotherhamtheatres.ticketsolve.com)



## LINGER LONGER LANE

10am-4pm, 22nd-26th February, the Old Town Hall, free.

Literacy charity Grimm & Co invite you to Linger Longer Lane, a vibrant, magical and enchanting place where families, children, young people, culture and creativity come together.

Take part in workshops covering everything from crafts and storytelling, to music, dance and poetry, or watch Khula Arts performing engaging music, story and dance performances from the street's balconies.

All activities on the magical Linger Longer Lane are free to take part in, so simply drop in to see what's going on, or check out Grimm & Co's website and socials to find out what's happening each day ([www.grimmandco.co.uk](http://www.grimmandco.co.uk)).



## NEON LIGHT INSTALLATION

28th February, Rotherham Civic Theatre, free.

Check out our brand new neon art installation at Rotherham Civic Theatre, which has been inspired by Ian McMillan's new poem and made in collaboration with a team of young producers, who have shared their favourite experiences in Rotherham and future hopes for the town. The installation is created by local artist Patrick Murphy.



# CHALLENGE ROTHERHAM




Every Monday from 28th February to the beginning of September, free.

Are you ready for a creative challenge? Challenge Rotherham is here to stretch your talents in a series of weekly challenges this spring and summer, designed to take you on a creative adventure.

From dance to football, drawing and exploring, every challenge will be designed by children and young people in Rotherham, and will give you the opportunity to get to know the people and places around you better.

The challenges are for everyone, so whether you're 9 or 99, we hope each one inspires your creativity and introduces you to other people and opportunities in Rotherham.

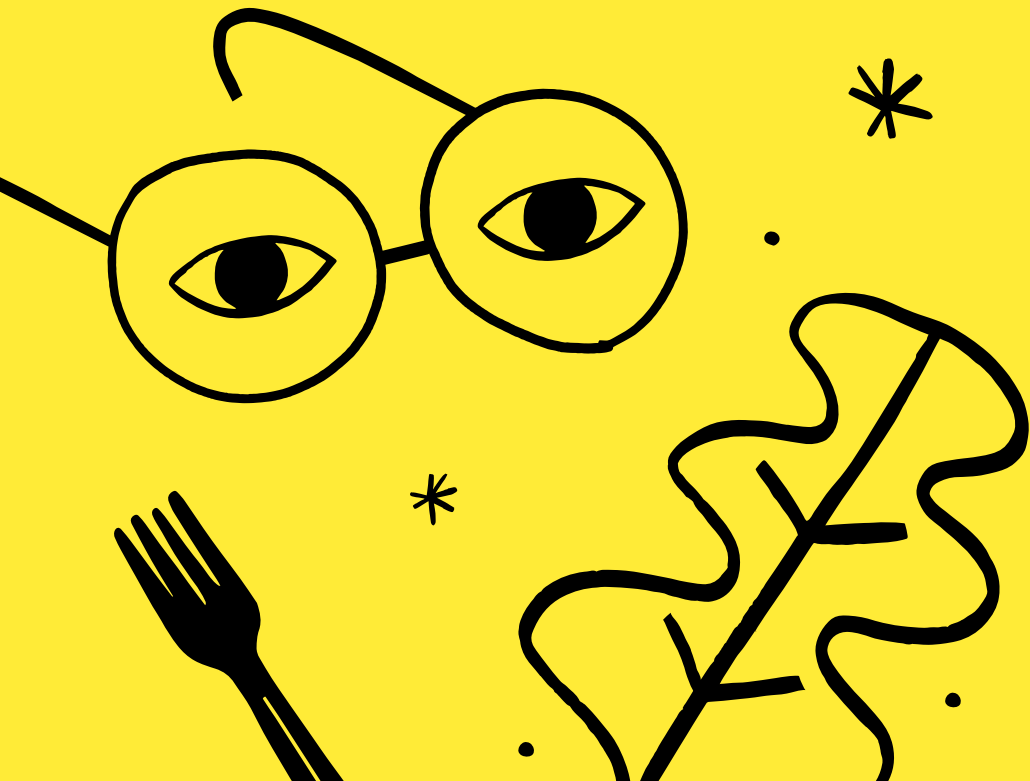
To sign up to receive your weekly challenge, visit our website ([www.rotherham2025.com/hello](http://www.rotherham2025.com/hello)), or follow us on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook. You can share your challenge responses and inspire others to join you too, by using #ChallengeRotherham on your socials.

 /ccocrotherham2025  
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# BE PART OF OUR YOUNG CREATIVES NETWORK

Find your inspiration through Young Creatives Network, an exciting new network for people who want to try new things, learn new skills and meet other young people doing amazing things.



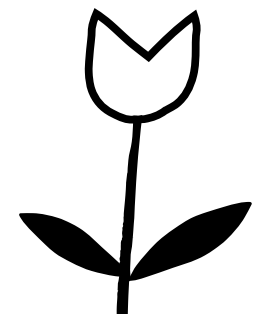
Young Creatives is a network for local people aged 11–25, who want to develop their skills, confidence, and creative talents, while also helping to shape the future of Children’s Capital of Culture.

By becoming part of Young Creatives, you’ll be able to take part in a wide range of inspiring opportunities, from Q&A sessions with well-known artists, musicians and performers, to mentoring and artist buddying schemes.

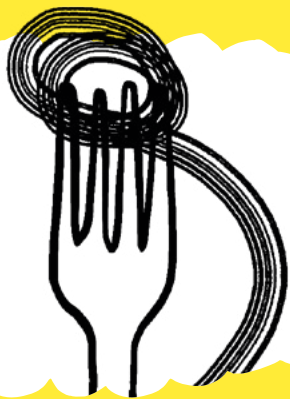
You’ll also be able to join a series of creative workshops, which will let you try out everything from games design and film-making, to journalism and marketing.

Our Young Creatives programme is delivered in partnership with Grimm & Co and 64 Million Artists. Keep an eye on our website ([www.rotherham2025.com/hello](http://www.rotherham2025.com/hello)) for details of how to take part.

Image — © Hannah Smillie,  
CCOC Young Artist in Residence

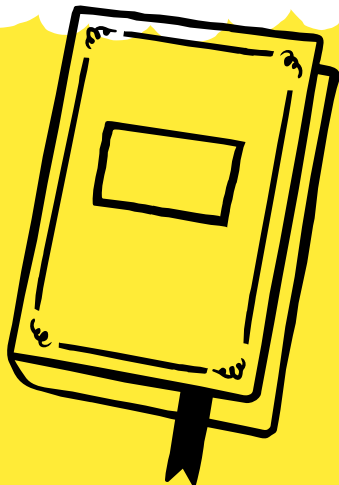


# A TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME



Creative venues and organisations in and around Rotherham will host an incredible programme of events and experiences this year, giving you a taste of what's to come as the world's first Children's Capital of Culture.

Here's a snapshot of what you can look forward to this spring / summer 2022.



## GULLIVER'S ARTS FEST

24th-26th May 2022,  
Gulliver's Valley, free.

The first ever Gulliver's Arts Fest is an interactive three-day festival for primary school-aged children. Take part in a range of arts workshops, where you'll learn everything from dance to circus skills, before heading to Cultural Camp in the evening for an unforgettable night of storytelling, shadow art, and musical arts by the campfire.

Find out more:

 /gulliversvalley

 @gulliversfun

## GRIMM & CO'S FESTIVAL OF STORIES

31st May / 1st June / 4th June,  
Linger Longer Lane at the Old  
Town Hall, free.

Linger Longer Lane is a pop-up story destination that champions the writer in every child. This summer it will be home to Rotherham's Festival of Stories, a literary festival with a difference, bringing stories to life through performance, music, dance, stories and artefacts.

Find out more at  
[www.grimmandco.co.uk](http://www.grimmandco.co.uk)



## RUCST EXHIBITION

5th June-30th August 2022, free.

Rotherham United Community Sports Trust (RUCST) young producers are curating an exhibition to highlight the local history of women's football, as well as contributions of players of colour. Schools and community groups are invited to take part in a 32-step dance routine for football legend, Arthur Wharton, who helped get Rotherham United to where it is today!

Keep an eye on Instagram for regular project updates, challenges and more.

Or email:  
[nchampionshorr@rotherhamunited.net](mailto:nchampionshorr@rotherhamunited.net)

OR [luallott@rotherhamunited.net](mailto:luallott@rotherhamunited.net)  
for more info.





## TROLL FEST AT THURCROFT REC

June 2022 (date TBC), free.

Trolls will awaken from their slumbers and descend on Thurcroft in June, but don't worry! These are not the trolls that cause trouble; they are the ones that love nature and will do anything to keep it safe for generations to come.

Troll Fest is a celebration of all things ecological, designed and created by the residents of Thurcroft and the Thurcroft Creatives group. Expect creative workshops and activities, a stage for performances, food and drink, and much more.

For more information, contact: [team@rotherhamroar.org](mailto:team@rotherhamroar.org)

## RMBC EVENTS IN COLLABORATION WITH KALEIDER

June, free.

A dramatic public sculpture will appear in Rotherham overnight, changing familiar spaces and bringing wonder and joy, while asking questions about who we are, our place in the world, and telling stories of Rotherham's rich and diverse cultures.

Delivered by a team of young producers, creative production company Kaleider and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's events team, this public spectacle will be in place for three weeks throughout June



and will include pop-up and spontaneous performances to surprise those who are passing through.

For more information and the latest updates, follow:

 /RMBCEvents

 @RMBCEvents

## GUTS, MAGNA SCIENCE ADVENTURE CENTRE

8th June 2022, Magna Science Adventure Centre, free.

Get Up To Speed (GUTS) will be an interactive one-day event held at Magna, in partnership with The Work-Wise Foundation, which will showcase employment opportunities for young people in the cultural, creative and leisure sectors in South Yorkshire.

Come along and get a taste of what life is like in these industries, by meeting organisations, employers and education providers who can help you understand more about the career opportunities available across the sector.

South Yorkshire has a rich cultural and creative heritage, world-class artists, exceptional music venues, galleries, museums, theatres, attractions, leisure and sporting facilities. Be part of it!

For more info, keep an eye on Magna's social media channels:

 /magnascience

## WENTWORTH WOODHOUSE

Wentworth Woodhouse is developing the filmmakers of the future! Young trainees from Rotherham are taking part in an exciting programme of filming, editing, presenting, researching, storytelling, marketing and factual film production activity, and working with industry professionals to look at areas such as animation, music, performance, augmented reality and virtual reality.

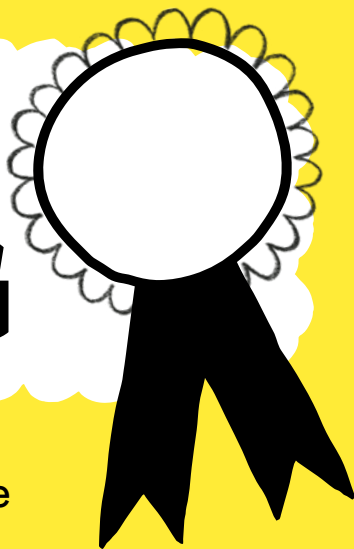
Their films will be released in July for the world to see. Keep an eye on YouTube for behind-the-scenes footage:

 /wentworthwoodhouse1





# TOP TRAINING



Being Children's Capital of Culture isn't just about fun, festivals and celebrations. Alongside the creative programme of events, we are also working hard to give our young people life-changing skills development and training in the creative and cultural sectors, funded by the UK Community Renewal Fund.

## TRAINEESHIPS

Rotherham will be a place where our young people want to develop, work and invest, and make their mark in the creative and cultural industries locally, regionally, nationally and globally. So, in 2022, we have created 55 new traineeships for 16-25-year-olds, who are learning on the job in some of Rotherham's most progressive cultural organisations.

## SKILLS AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

We have launched a range of training programmes to support young people aged 13-25 into sectors such as arts, culture, heritage and creative media. The training programmes will be delivered by The Source, a South Yorkshire company passionate about education and training.

Look out for a wide range of free training sessions held in Rotherham Libraries, a not-to-be-missed competition for schools and community groups to win funding for a creative arts idea, and visits to schools across Rotherham.

Please contact:  
**The Source Academy**  
on 0114 263 5600  
to find out more.

## EXPLORE YOUR INTERESTS WITH AN ARTS AWARD

As part of the journey to Children's Capital of Culture 2025, this year we aim to see 200 young people across the borough achieve a Bronze Arts Award. This is a qualification from Arts Council England that supports anyone aged 11-25 to develop their leadership skills, build their confidence, and unleash their creativity as they explore different art forms.

So whether you're into poetry or pottery, dance or digital art, the Arts Award is for you!

## WHAT LEVEL QUALIFICATION IS THE BRONZE ARTS AWARD?

The Bronze Arts Award is a nationally recognised Level 1 qualification (much shorter than studying for a GCSE, but the same 'difficulty' as GCSE grade 3-1).

## WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO GET A BRONZE ARTS AWARD?

Take part in one of our creative programmes led by our supportive Arts Award advisors, experiencing culture for yourself, finding out about different art forms, and then sharing what you've learned with others.

**I'M INTERESTED!  
WHAT DO I DO NOW?**

Visit our website, [www.rotherham2025.com/hello](http://www.rotherham2025.com/hello), and sign up to our mailing list. We'll be in touch with details of events and opportunities happening near you.

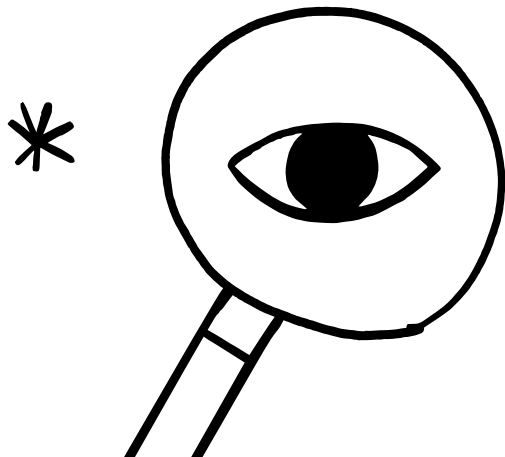


# THANK YOU!



Children's Capital of Culture 2025 is designed and delivered by children and young people in partnership with a range of organisations and funders, and we would like to thank them for their support.

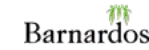
We would also like to thank the 55 young producers who are working behind the scenes to bring you a taste of what an incredible year 2025 could be!



## Lead Delivery Partner:



## Programme Board:



Our launch festival has been made possible with the support of the following organisations:



## Funders:



Our Artists in Residence, the Young Creatives programme and Challenge Rotherham are brought to you by:

## Collaborators:



## Funders:



The whole programme has been made possible thanks to support from the UK Community Renewal Fund.

## Collaborators:




## Funders:




## JOIN THE REVOLUTION

To get involved in the Children's Capital of Culture programme, head to the website for more information [www.rotherham2025.com/hello](http://www.rotherham2025.com/hello), and follow us on social media:

 @ccoc\_rotherham2025

 /ccocrotherham2025

 @ccoc\_roth2025

Remember to tag us and share your experiences using the #Rotherham2025 hashtag.

