

## Workshop: Inquest Investigators

Pupils will use archival records including the Thomas Taylor coroner reports to investigate unexplained deaths in Victorian Wakefield. They will explore the working and social conditions of the time and reach a verdict on the deaths.

**Duration: 120 minutes Audience: KS3 and KS4 Location: WYHC**

### Learning Objectives:

- To learn who Thomas was and what he did
- To introduce archival material and Archives as a source of information
- To investigate an historical coroner's case using archive material and draw conclusions
- To explore working conditions in the nineteenth century

### Workshop Overview

Activity	Content	Timings and resources
Welcome and introduction	Meet and greet Why are you here? What are we going to do today? Housekeeping	5 mins
Introduction to archives and session	What is an archive and what do we do at WYHC? Show handling collection Tour of Archive Introduction to Thomas Taylor	20 mins
Activity 1: Investigation	Groups explore packs of evidence Record information on worksheet	20 mins
Activity 2: Prepare Presentation	Start creating presentation	20 mins
Activity 3: View originals	Find the actual verdict – discuss	10 mins
Activity 4: Reform and presentations	Extracts from Factories Act 1901 Find reform that would have saved victims life 5 Safety measures that would have prevented the accident Present findings	30 mins
Plenary	Recap session asking questions about archive and activities What have you learnt? What have you enjoyed?	10 mins