



Dear Teacher

Thank you for booking your Foundation Phase2 (KS1) school party at the Egypt Centre. This programme of activities is suitable for children aged 5 to 7.

The children will not be expected to work unaided but take part in the activities with the Museum's assistants. All of the activities are hands-on and some have simple worksheets. Most of our staff who will be working with your pupils are unpaid volunteers and not trained teachers. Please could you therefore ensure that the children are supervised at all times? The volunteers have indicated it is helpful if children are given name badges, however we understand that not all schools are happy to provide name badges therefore we leave the decision to you.

You can choose 3 activities to do in each gallery. A selection sheet is enclosed please can you contact the museum with your choice as soon as possible.

The Areas of Learning covered by the various activities:

- Language, literacy and communication
- Mathematical Development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical development
- Creative development
- Personal and Social Development

The activities on offer in the upstairs gallery, *The House of Life*, are:

1. Egyptian Costume and Music (45-60 MINUTES this counts as TWO CHOICES)

During this activity the children dress up as ancient Egyptians. Through role-play they learn about the social structure of Egypt from the Pharaoh to the peasantry. They discover what materials and manufacturing techniques were used to make clothes and what garments would have been worn by adults and children. Children will also be told about personal hygiene, cosmetics and perfumes. The music activity is about understanding the different musical instruments used in a different culture and time. Looking at the similarities and differences with ones we use and how they sound. Above all this activity is about having fun! ***You may wish to bring a camera to photograph the children dressed up!*** *This activity is not normally available for a half-day visit due to time constraints.*

2. Egyptian Materials (30 MINUTES)

Children will learn about the various materials used by the Egyptians and how they were manufactured. During this activity the children will have the opportunity to handle objects, some possibly 6,000 years old, wearing gloves. As it is unclear what some of the objects are, the children are encouraged to guess and discuss what they think objects were made of and used for.

3. Exploring Buckets (30 MINUTES)

During this activity children explore the gallery for Egyptian treasures. They look around the gallery using 'exploring buckets' with the themes 'toys and games,' 'the home', 'school' and 'clothes'. Children will be encouraged to sort the images into types and then look for them. They find their favourite object and draw it. Later the children have the opportunity to share what they have discovered in the gallery with others in their group.

4. Exploring Egypt (30 MINUTES)

During this activity children are encouraged to wear props and take on the role of an explorer or one of the team who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb! They re-enact the discovery of the famous pharaoh's tomb and pretend they have discovered a tomb full of ancient Egyptian treasures. They look around the gallery to find and draw an object using a laminated instruction card. Children with lower ability can use sheets with objects drawn on them to look for and colour in. Later the children have an opportunity to share what they have discovered in the gallery with others in their group. ***You may wish to bring a camera to photograph the children dressed up!***

5. Write like an Egyptian! (30 MINUTES)

This activity it is all about picture association and the realisation that other alphabets exist. Children will look at different forms of writing systems and try and work out how simple words are written. Children are encouraged to write their name in a 'cartouche' phonetically.

6. Egyptian Mathematics! (30 MINUTES)

The children will look at the way numbers were written in Ancient Egypt and complete simple calculations using this base-10 picture system. The maths system uses unit value and not place value. Children problem solve and handle data in a new way using simple work sheets.

7. Measure like an Egyptian! (30 MINUTES)

Children will experience a fun new way of measuring using their finger, hand and arm and discuss the problems of using a non-standard form of measuring unit! Children will choose which method of measuring is best when measuring different objects around the gallery.

8. *Senet* game (30 MINUTES)

Children are placed in teams to play the ancient board game *senet*. They learn about the rules of *senet* and its place in Egyptian society, developing strategy and team building skills. We have a replica of a *senet* board found in Tutankhamun's tomb with throw sticks instead of traditional dice.

The activities on offer in the downstairs gallery, *The House of Death* are:

1. Mummification and Opening of the Mouth Ceremony (30 MINUTES)

Using a life-size 'dummy-mummy' the children learn the art of deluxe mummification! This includes the removal of organs from the body, drying and bandaging the body, along with the ceremony and ritual that was an integral part of the mummification process. Children are encouraged to participate in role-play and use the props provided. Children are encouraged to question whether or not the ancient Egyptian amulets (and other objects) found in the mummy wrappings to protect the dead person should have been taken from the body and displayed in museums around the world! ***You may wish to bring a camera to photograph the children dressed up!***

2. The Weighing of the Heart (30 MINUTES)

During this activity the children, through dressing up and role play, are encouraged to discuss the journey made by the deceased to the Afterlife. One of the most important aspects was the symbolic 'weighing of the heart'. Children will be asked to identify scenes on different objects in the gallery and decide themselves what they thought 'happened next'. They design, name and discuss their own *Devourer*, made of three fearsome animals. ***You may wish to bring a camera to photograph the children dressed up!***

3. The Animals of ancient Egypt (30 MINUTES)

The children will find out about the many different types of animal that lived in ancient Egypt and how important and sacred animals were to the ancient Egyptians. Children guess the Egyptian names of animals thinking of the sound an animal makes using the principle of onomatopoeia. Children will play the 'guess the animal in the bag' game. Simple work sheets are used for children to record answers.

4. The Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt (30 MINUTES)

The children, through role play and wearing headdresses, will be told about the many gods and goddesses in ancient Egypt and their importance. The children will look for images of a specific god/goddess and learn about individual gods. The children will record answers in a simple worksheet. ***You may wish to bring a camera to photograph the children dressed up!***

5. Servants in the Afterlife: *Shabti* figures (30 MINUTES)

This activity illustrates the ancient Egyptian belief in the Afterlife and how they believed life carried on as it was on earth e.g. seeds needed to be sown and crops harvested. The children look at servant and *shabti* figures and discuss the type of work they would have been engaged in. Comparing work that was performed by these figures with work that is done today, this activity links the past with the present. The children are encouraged to examine the objects on display, draw their own *shabti*, make one out of play dough, and discuss what work they would like it to do for them!

6. Survival in the Afterlife! (30 MINUTES)

The ancient Egyptians believed different things made up a person during life and that it was important that these things survived in the Afterlife. Children will be told the importance of the person's body, heart, name, *Ka* (life force), *Ba* (personality), and shadow, all of which needed to be preserved in order for the deceased to survive in the Afterlife. Children are encouraged to ask and answer questions about each of the essential elements and record their answers on a simple work sheet.

7. Food and drink offerings (30 MINUTES)

The children will, using their own knowledge of food and drink, guess the types of food the ancient Egyptians ate; prompted by model food and visual resources. The children will then use play dough and make an offering tray for the mummy to have food and drink for eternity in the afterlife!

Let us know your choices as soon as possible

The visit

When you arrive the children are welcomed, handed their clipboards, sheets and pencils and divided into two groups. One group will go into the *House of Death* and one group will go into the *House of Life*. The children go for lunch in a pre-booked area and after lunch swap over so they all have an opportunity to see both galleries. If you are only visiting for half a day then the activities on offer will be limited to **two** in each gallery.

We charge £2 a head for each child and provide the relevant photocopied sheets, clipboards and pencils for the children to use. If any children do not turn up we charge 50p for the photocopied work pack, which you can take away with you. Teachers and children may bring cameras but **we do not allow flash photography** in the two museum galleries, due to conservation issues regarding safe light levels. We also have a shop area with 'Egyptian' themed items starting from 30p and also offer a 'goody bag' service. Please make cheques payable to *Swansea University*.

We look forward to seeing you and hope you enjoy your time at the Egypt Centre. Please fill in and return our teacher questionnaire, any comments on how we can improve our services to you will be gratefully received. Sometimes teachers send us 'thank you' letters and drawings from children that we put in a booklet for other visitors to see. If you would like to send us children's work please can you obtain your head teacher's permission for them to go on display?

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Goodridge

Assistant curator

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Important Notice for Teachers

We want to ensure that your visit to the Egypt Centre is happy, safe and rewarding. In order to achieve this we want to explain our roles; what you can expect from us and what we expect from you.

The Role of the Egypt Centre

- All activities are museum led. We will provide trained activity leaders to work with small groups of children. Activity leaders are **not** expected to discipline children. All staff working with your children are fully-enhanced CRB checked.
- We will endeavour to provide as many of the activities chosen by the school in the time available.
- We will provide all materials and equipment needed for each activity, which are safe to use.
- We will provide each child with a clipboard, pencil and work-pack for their use during the visit.
- If required, we can provide a safe area for lunch near toilet facilities.
- We provide a gift-shop that caters for school children and is relevant to areas of study.
- We welcome feedback from schools and each school is given a questionnaire to return.

The Role of the School

- The school should try to arrive at the agreed time.
- The school will pay a £2 for each child.
(Please make cheques payable to *Swansea University*)
- A member of school staff should supervise each group of children at all times and ensure good behaviour.
- Ensure the equipment and materials that are to be used for subsequent school groups and the public are not being misused.
- Respect other visitors to the museum.
- If the school has any concern please report it to a member of staff immediately.

The Egypt Centre wants to ensure that children are protected from harm while in the Museum. In addition to the Museum's responsibilities, we ask that teachers/leaders of groups exercise their own responsibilities.

In particular, all leaders/teachers shall:

- Make sure they have adequate staff supervision using the ratios laid down by their institution. This is a suggestion:
 - 0-2 years = 1 adult to 3 children
 - 2-3 years = 1 adult to 4 children
 - 3-7 years = 1 adult to 8 children
 - 7 years + = 2 adults (preferably one of each gender) for up to 20 children/young people, and one additional staff member for every additional 10 children/young people.

- Ensure they supervise the children/young people at all times
- In case of an accident, contact a member of the Museum staff who will follow the Museum procedures
- In the case of a lost child, contact a member of the Museum staff who will follow the Museum procedures
- Refrain from having possession of, or consuming, alcoholic beverages on the Museum premises
- Refrain from either verbally or physically abusing a child/young person
- Ensure adequate insurance cover for the group and leaders
- Ensure that the appropriate group leaders carry any necessary medicine for the children with them at all times, with the permission of the parents/guardian
- Inform their group of behavioural expectations while in the Egypt Centre

The Museum hopes each visitor has an enjoyable and exciting visit. We therefore expect all visitors to display courtesy and respect for others, and for the Museum property, at all times while visiting the Museum.

Group leaders should therefore not allow members of their group to:

- make any sectarian, racist, sexist or other offensive remarks toward any person or other group
- vandalise Museum property
- leave litter in the Museum/University grounds.

Activities for school parties

Upstairs gallery

Choose 3 activities from:

1. Egyptian clothes and Music (counts as two choices)
2. Egyptian Materials
3. Exploring Buckets!
4. Exploring Egypt
5. Write like an Egyptian!
6. Egyptian Mathematics!
7. Measure like an Egyptian!
8. Playing the *Senet* game

Downstairs gallery

Choose 3 activities from:

1. Mummification and Opening of the Mouth
2. The Weighing of the Heart
3. The Animals of ancient Egypt
4. The Gods and Goddesses of ancient Egypt
5. Servants in the Afterlife
6. Survival in the Afterlife!
7. Food and drink offerings

Please indicate your choice and reply as soon as possible in order to prepare the work packs for your party. Please ring Wendy at the Egypt Centre on 01792-295960 or email your choice to w.r.goodridge@swansea.ac.uk giving at least 10 days notice.

Name of school

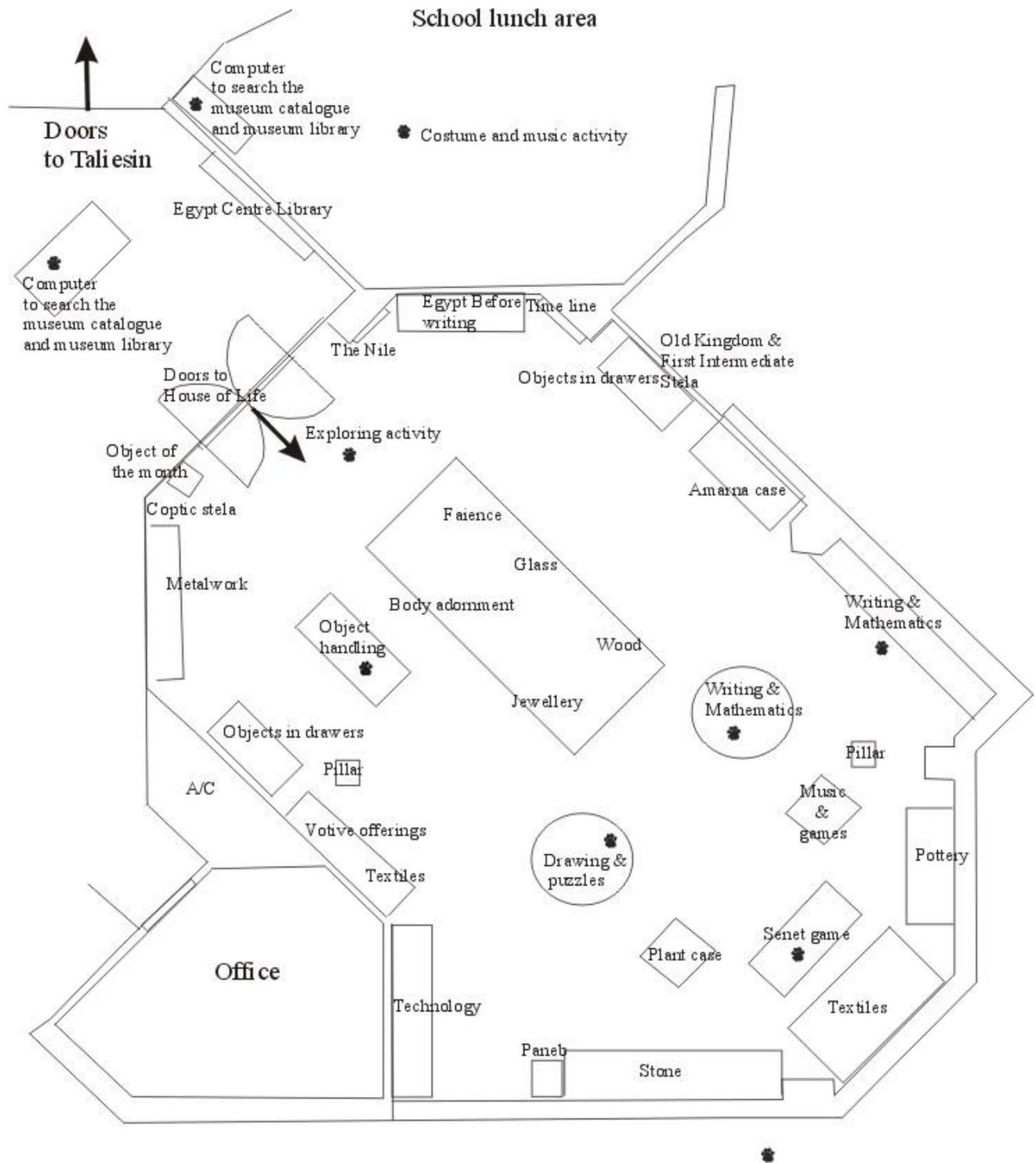
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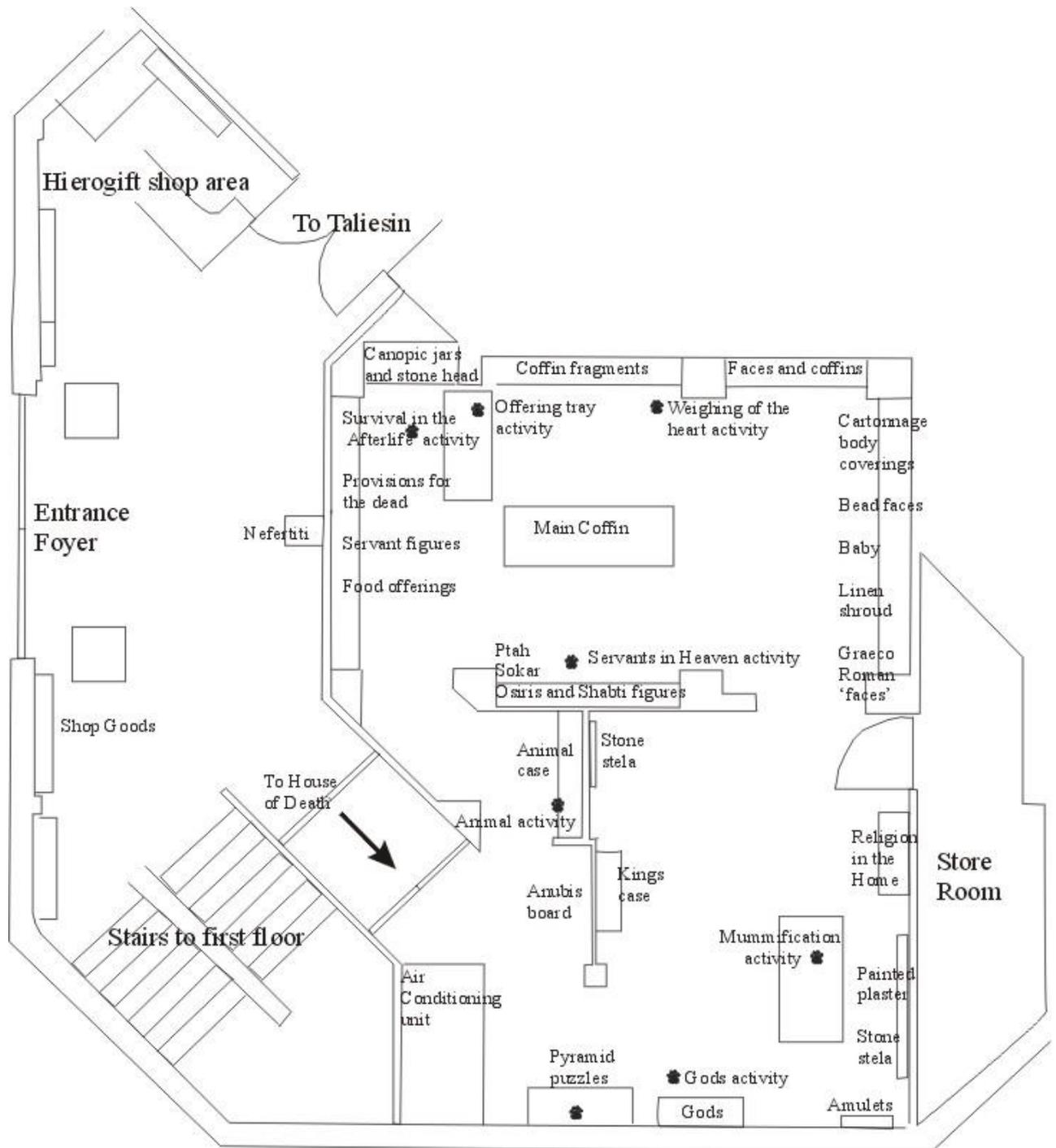
Upstairs gallery

- 1
- 2
- 3

Downstairs gallery

- 1
- 2
- 3





Egypt Centre Ground floor plan



Hands-on activities

The Egypt Centre *Hierogift* Shop

‘GOODIE’ BAGS FACILITY

The museum shop is available for use by all visiting parties during their time at the centre. There are many items geared towards school children, and at a very affordable price (items start from 25p!) There should be (time permitting) a chance for your group to visit the shop at some time during the day.

However, the shop is quite small, so we are unable to serve a whole group at the same time. It is recommended that groups use the shop 6 or 7 at a time in order to make it easier for the shop assistants and for the children themselves.

We also offer to make up ‘goodie bags’ which can be prepared in advance, up to a certain amount of money, ie. £1.50, £2.00, £3.00 etc. This can make the visit easier for schools especially if they are pressed for time.

If you wish to use this facility, please contact me in advance and I can have a selection of items for you to see during the morning session. I can suggest items to put in the bags, both educational and fun. Some examples include; blank papyrus, painted papyrus, bookmarks, pencils, pens, scarab beetles and small statues, necklaces and rings. The bags will be ready before you leave.

If there are any other questions about the shop you wish to ask, then please do not hesitate to contact me here at the Museum.

Many thanks

Lauren Thomson

Gift Shop Manager

Tel: 01792 602660

E-mail l.j.thomson@swansea.ac.uk