Dear Families,

In the 16th century, royalty would travel through their countries during the warm months to visit the nobles and view their country up-close. This journey was called a “royal progress.” We invite you to join us on your own royal progress through Renaissance Ireland.

Along the way, you will meet noblemen, see some works that endure today, and explore how travel transformed Irish society.

Come with us! Travel through the four provinces of Ireland and explore two centuries of history up close!

Look out for these symbols during your journey!

Put down your backpack and stay awhile! There’s lots to see and do!

There’s something important to see here!

Present Yourself!

Coats of arms were a visual display of what was important to a Renaissance family. Look at how the Irish coats of arms are decorated to the right, then draw your own coat of arms below!

Continue the Journey!

Join us for a FREE Family Workshop! (Feb 9 and Mar 16, 10am)

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Look out for these symbols during your journey!
Portraits of Nobility were designed to tell a story. This portrait of Thomas “Black Tom” Butler includes many details that help you to form an opinion of him.

What do you think you know about Black Tom from the details of his portrait to the left?

What does Nobility mean to you? Are you born Noble or can you buy Nobility? Or is it something else?

Royal connections were something to be proud of. If the King stayed in your home during his progress or your own bloodline traced back to the throne, you were considered to be very important indeed!

Find as many queens and kings as you can in the exhibit. Does anyone stand out to you? Who and why?

What does Nobility mean to you? Are you born Noble or can you buy Nobility? Or is it something else?

King James I proclaimed that anyone could buy a title of Nobility. Some families who were noble by birth were not pleased with this change. They had their family trees drawn up to prove their better nobility.

Find this photo of Boyle’s funerary monument. If you had been as successful as Boyle in a new country, how would you leave your mark? Draw a picture in the box to the left.

Many people traveled from England to Ireland to start a new life during the Renaissance. Richard Boyle, a commoner from Kent in England, moved to Ireland and spent the rest of his life earning a great fortune. He became the first Earl of Cork.