**Schools Project – Design Your Own Panel Competition!**

**Pupil Guidance**

**The Challenge**

To design and stitch a panel to be exhibited with the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry at its Homecoming Exhibition, in Edinburgh, in 2017.

**What you need to do**

Get together with others in your class, school and local community to research potential stories to stitch. Look for something that’s a bit unique or special to your local area and gives you lots of design ideas! The main theme to think about is diaspora or reverse diaspora stories.

**What is *diaspora* and *reverse diaspora*?**

*Diaspora* comes from the Greek word meaning *to disperse* or *scatter*. It relates to the movement of people from their original Homeland to a new place, for example, if your family moved from Scotland to Australia that would be considered a *diaspora.* The same can be said for families who move from Australia to Scotland, although we call this *reverse diaspora.*

There are many different reasons why people leave their Homeland – because they need a new job, because they have married someone from a different country, because they just want to live somewhere else! Some people leave because they are looking for safety from war or famine.

All the tools you need to complete your panel are in the design pack. You may find that you need additional wools – particularly if you use a lot of one colour! Feel free to source any additional coloured wool from your local area, but the use of appliqué, beads, sequins etc is **not allowed**. If you need to achieve a particular effect, try different stitches and see what happens. Your copy of *The Art of Narrative Embroidery* should give you a lot of different ideas, but also think about asking people in your local community to teach you different stitches...you may be surprised how many people know how to embroider!

When you get around to stitching your panel make sure that everyone gets an opportunity to contribute. You may ask family members to help you but they cannot do all the work! In fact, only 25% of the panel can be stitched by adults!

**What are you waiting for?!**

We can’t wait to see all of your panel designs and hear about the different diaspora stories in your community, so get going! Remember to document your process along the way...take photographs, write journals, record oral histories...anything you like! We want to see how you went about researching and discovering your local history, how you chose the design and of course the all important evidence of you stitching the panel! We will be on hand if you have any questions along the way.

Judging will cover three categories which you should consider from the start, these are: *The Research*, *The Design* and *The Embroidery*

Have fun and happy stitching!