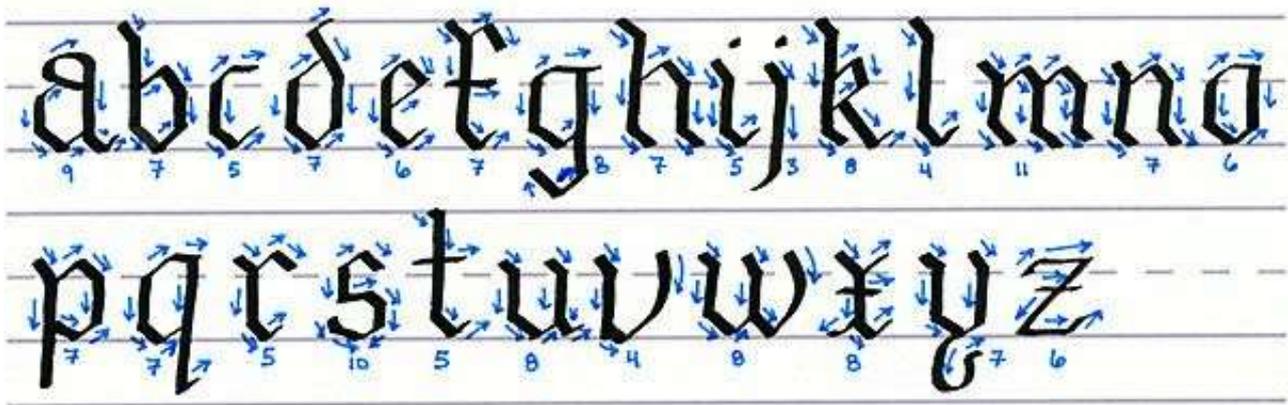
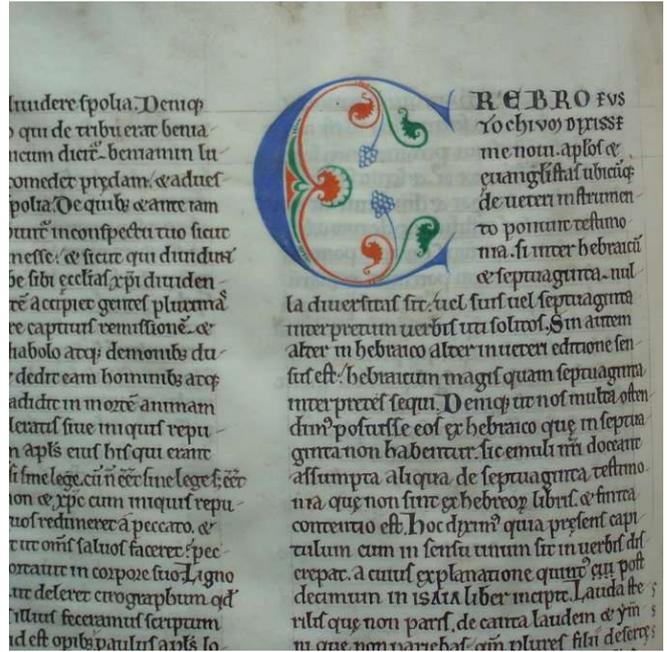


Manuscript Writing

The monks at Worcester Cathedral would spend many long hours in the Cloisters copying and illuminating documents like this one which is in our Library at the Cathedral.

This resource will help you learn how to write like a medieval monk and give you a chance to have a go at copying a very famous document with a connection to Worcester Cathedral.

Learn how to write like a monk



Here we have a guide to how to write each letter. Now why don't you have a go at writing some of these letters. You'll want to practice each letter a few times:

a	b	c
d	e	f
g		

The Magna Carta

Now you've had a chance to practice all the letters, why don't you have a go at writing out a bit of a very famous document. The Magna Carta.

What is the Magna Carta?

In 1215 the Lords of England made King John sign the Magna Carta. This document limited his powers as King, and he was forced into it by his barons after many conflicts. It has been described as forming the basis for our modern freedoms.

Find out more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zgqqtfr/revision/1>

What is its connection to Worcester Cathedral?

King John visited Worcester and stayed with the monks on several occasions, including Christmas 1214. He died in 1216 and in his will requested to be buried at the Cathedral. His tomb is at the East end of the Quire and his will is kept in our Library.

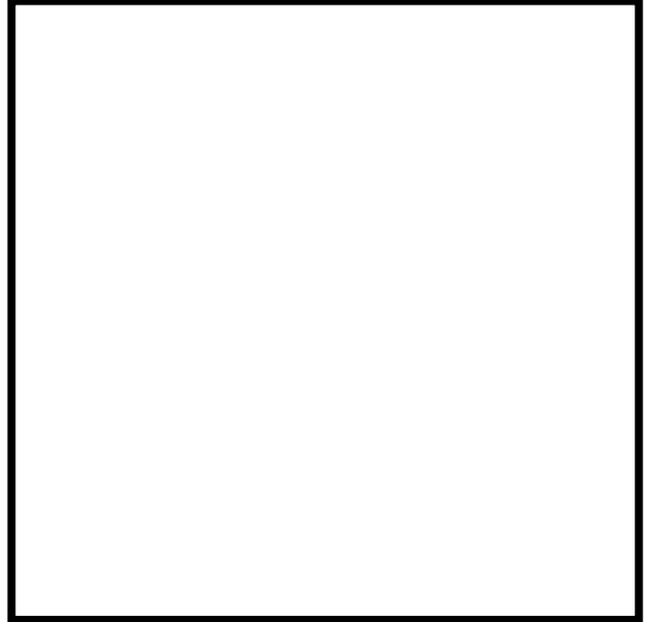
Copying the Magna Carta

After the Magna Carta was signed it would have been copied many times and distributed around the Kingdom. Can you have a go at copying one of the most famous passages, in medieval style.

No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled . nor will we proceed with force against him . except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land. To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice.

Illuminating

Imagine having to spend long periods of your day copying like a monk. Copying might have got a bit boring and so they like to liven up their day by making some of the starting letters look very attractive, just like the C in the picture at the top of this document. This was called illuminating. Why not have a go at this with our letter W (for Worcester) or create your own one in the box below.



Enjoy this?

Once your school is back up and running, you can book to come to the Cathedral and have a go at doing this in the Cloisters and using Quills, just like the monks!