



Class 13 and 14

Term: Spring Term



Area of Outstanding/ Exceptional Practice: Battlefield Tour.

Session/ s: Two students went on a school visit to France and Belgium to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

Key learning objectives/ subject areas: To have the opportunity to interact with a variety of different historic sites including battlefields, memorials, cemeteries and museums, participate in remembrance ceremonies, and record, reflect and share their own experiences.

Subject areas: History, Geography, Religious Education, PSHEE, Citizenship, Life skills.

Pupil outcomes and impact: The students had three main questions to focus on while they were on the visit. These were:

1. How did the First World War affect ordinary people?
2. Was the Battle of the Somme in 1916 really a disaster for the British Army?
3. Is remembrance more or less important 100 years on?

The students explored these questions through looking at artefacts, visiting battlefields, museums and cemeteries, meeting soldiers and completing a variety of activities, tasks and fieldwork.

They also developed personal skills, such as meeting new people, coping with travel and dealing with new environments.

Examples of activity/ ies:

- Researching a local soldier – 'more than just a name'.
- Attending the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate.
- Visiting the memorial museum and reconstructed trenches at Passchendaele.
- Walking through the preserved trenches and seeing 'The Danger Tree' at the Battle of the Somme site (Newfoundland Memorial Park).
- Experiencing a variety of different cemeteries and memorials including Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Tyne Cot, the Indian Memorial, Neuve Chapelle and Thiepval Memorial.

Visitors and community partners: First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme – led by UCL Institute of Education.

Parental / Carer involvement: Parents attended a meeting before the visit and discussed the arrangements with staff.

Other opportunities: Legacy 110 project – the students will be creating an enduring legacy of their visit by setting up a 'Legacy 110' community project to commemorate the First World War Centenary.

