

Review

A Visit To Remember

The Ypres Trip is our longest standing school trip - it is part of our exchange with our German and Belgian partner schools in Leer and Diksmuide.

It has been running now for 25 years and really something we are proud of. It is a really valuable trip because not only does it teach pupils about the historical significance of World War One, it also provides them with a unique angle to encourage them to think about the conflict from an international perspective.

It really adds something special to see pupils overcome national barriers and make new friends, and understand that now as in the past there really is no difference between people of different nationalities. This is the wonderful heart to this trip, and the fact it is a five day trip that makes it a really unique and meaningful experience.



This year's real highlights were visiting the Yser Peace Tower in Diksmuide, and to see Jacob take part in the Last Post Ceremony as our youngest ever participant. Pupils wrote some deeply honest and beautiful reflections on their experience.

Of course, we still need practice at table football, Mr Erdin from Freisenchule is still the undefeated champion!

Thank you to all the pupils for joining us this year and continuing our Peace Project.

Mr Beebe, history teacher



*We walked the paths where poppies grow,
where whispered winds still softly blow
through Ypres streets and solemn skies,
we saw where countless heroes lie.*

*The crosses stood in endless rows,
a quiet place where memory grows
and in the hush we felt the past,
a weight that echoes deep and vast.*

*In Flanders Fields we bowed our heads
to commemorate the brave and dead
not just for then but for today,
we remember them - come what may.*

By a Year 9 pupil



This trip was incredible; it was a once in a lifetime experience and it made me feel guilty for all that we take for granted today because of what these soldiers did. It really made me think and understand how tragic it was, and how difficult it is to believe that millions of people died for almost nothing.

Many of the places we visited were very emotionally challenging, especially the German cemetery at Langemark. Just because Germany was blamed for World War One, I don't think their dead should be laid to rest in humongous mass graves and hidden under trees. All the other cemeteries were big and grand, and the gravestones were white, with only one human being in each grave.

There were graves in Langemark which contained 20 soldiers.

We watched the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate and the fact that we watch in silence and do not clap shows the burden we still feel today and how grateful we are to live in a time with more peace, but still not complete peace. We need to continue to work for no more conflicts in the whole world.

By a Year 9 pupil

*On the grass, where the gravestones stand
tall, sturdy, strong.*

*Under the grass, the soldiers lie,
wasted, young and wrong.*

*So many lives lost to a war
which did not have to start.*

*Mothers cry, where sons lie,
nursing their broken heart.*

By a Year 9 pupil



College News

Our last Tutor Olympics for the year was our annual Marshmallow Mayhem - congratulations to Mr Hull's tutor group who were this year's winners.



Year 7 Careers Events

Our Year 7 pupils took part in a fun team building activity led by the British Army. Working in small teams, pupils used their team working skills to complete tasks and games.

The highlight was watching the rocket cars zoom across the floor and seeing which team's vehicle travelled the furthest. Pupils used great skills showing how they can communicate well, solve problems and recognise one another's attributes and use this to the team's best advantage.

Year 7 Futures Day taking place next month, will give the pupils a chance to work on these and other employability skills along with meeting visiting speakers working in many different sectors of employment. Both these activities form part of our careers education programme, which we are proud to deliver from Year 7 onwards.



Mrs Edgill, careers coordinator

Year 8 RE Festival Fun

Over the past few weeks, Year 8 have been learning about a range of religious festivals in RE, including Diwali, Setsuban, Rosh Hashanah, Eid al-Fitr, and Holi.

Each student researched one festival, created an informative and eye-catching poster, and brought in a game or traditional food item to share on our very own class festival day.

The classroom was filled with colour, creativity and delicious smells! We wore Setsuban masks and battled scary ogres by throwing 'soybeans' to bring in good luck. Although we couldn't throw powder for Holi, balloons and party poppers helped us capture the spirit of the festival with bursts of colour and lots of laughter.

A huge well done to everyone for their fantastic effort - great fun was had by all!



Ms Reid, RE teacher