

Educational visit to Belgium and France:

On Friday 9th of March, the History Department took two students from Year 9 to the Battlefields around the Belgian town of Ypres and Northern France. Over four days, Dean Denton and Alisha Rainger visited a range of museums, battlefields and World War One Cemeteries. The following was written by Alisha Rainger, 9TCa:

During the visit to the World War One Battlefields we learnt so much! One of the most interesting parts was the visit to the Lijssenthoek military cemetery in Belgium, where over 10,000 soldiers from the British Commonwealth are buried. It was originally an Allied clearing station that helped wounded soldiers before they were moved onto hospitals much further behind the front line. Unfortunately, many soldiers died at Lijssenthoek before they were moved on.

Another interesting visit was to the only German cemetery a few miles from Lijssenthoek. This was completely different from the Allied Cemetery for a number of reasons. For example, 25,000 German soldiers were buried together in a "comrades' grave". Also many of the graves there held an number of bodies compared to the Commonwealth graves that held only one each.

Incredibly, 44,000 German soldiers were laid to rest at Langemark, which is about a third the size of our playing field!

One of the most memorable parts of our visit was to the Menin Gate in Ypres. Menin Gate holds the names of 54,000 Commonwealth soldiers whose bodies have never been found. Everyday at 8pm the Belgian people hold a ceremony to commemorate those who were never found. Civilians play the Last Post and many people lay wreaths. We put our names down for the chance to lay a wreath but unfortunately were not picked.

Overall, what does this tell about remembrance 100 years on?

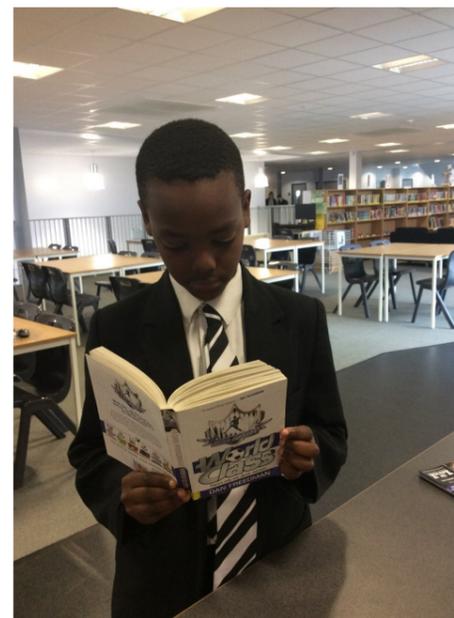
It shows that even today everything that happened is still relevant. Also that many people still have family members that will never be found.

Dates for your Diary

For your reference, the following events below will be of importance to all students in the Spring Term:

-Tuesday 10th April	Students Return
-Wednesday 11th April	Year 10 Parents Evening
-Saturday 21st April	Year 7 Saturday School
-Saturday 28th April	Year 8 Saturday School
-Monday 7th April	May Bank Holiday
-Saturday 12th May	Year 9 & 11 Saturday School
-Monday 14th May	Year 11 GCSE's Start
-Saturday 19th May	Year 10 Saturday School
-Friday 25th May	Academy Closes
-Monday 4th June	Students Return

Jean Ishimwe, Year 8, was "caught reading" recently and earned himself £12 worth of book tokens for rising to a challenge to read 200 pages in three days. He had finished his book the following morning! Well done Jean.



During this half term, Year 8 studied the Trans-Atlantic slave trade in their History topic. Additionally, they considered slavery in Literacy, through Shakespeare, non-fiction texts and persuasive writing. Below is a piece by Meshia Owst, asking the Government to do more about Modern Slavery.

Slavery is still an issue today (globally). Modern slavery shouldn't exist anywhere in the world. It affects people's future and sometimes even their personality. It can also affect the slave owner. Modern slavery is a lot cheaper than it was in the past which is one of the main reasons why people still buy slaves.

It may seem attractive to some people to buy a slave nowadays, due to the cost. This is because 'slaves are cheaper than ever' which gives people an opportunity to have work done for them- constantly- at a low price. It's unfair that valuable citizens are enslaved for such a low price because they deserve a good life. Modern slaves may be bought by rich people, lazy people, farmers and many more.

You – as a government – could change this and pair up with other governments to change this.

We need to abolish slavery! People! Humans! They were not created to be sold, whatever their ethnicity or background. People in this world need to realise that no matter how cheap someone is, no- one should be sold and everyone should live a happy life.

On the other hand, the slave owner may have an illness and could do with this help. But that is no excuse. Not even in the slightest.

Stop the selling of humans.

Recently twenty year 8 students were given the opportunity to visit the University of York and be taught by Science degree students in their newly-built laboratories. The students loved this day, and can't wait to return for future visits!

Excellence Hub – Communicating Science

On Monday 12th of March, selected students went on a visit to the University Of York for a day about science. They and took part in a challenges and quizzes about dinosaurs, enzymes and animals.

The dinosaurs task was where students had to figure out whether a dinosaur was a carnivore or a herbivore using its remains (skull, claw, tooth, thigh, and dung). The answer was a herbivore.

In the animals task, students had to answer several animal questions based around adaptations and for every three correct answers we got an adaptation which we could use to build a creature.

Overall, everyone had a great day and lots of us decided we would love to go to University to study Science.

After the sad news of his death, many students in year 8 were excited to learn about the late Stephen Hawking this week and the discoveries he made.

Stephen Hawking was the best astrophysicist who sadly died on the 14th March 2018 at the age of 76. He battled with ALS for 55 years. He also made a miraculous discovery that a black hole wasn't just black! It actually had a glow and sometimes had a jet of red light! He also found out that black holes can shrink.

