



## Primary 7 Open Night 2016

Visiting parents and pupils once again enjoyed the historical “Guess Who” which has become a regular feature of Primary Seven Open Night. This year’s historical figures included: Florence Nightingale (Sarah Conn), Elizabeth I (Charley Brush), Mary, Queen of Scots (Rebecca Alexander), Henry VIII (Sam McMurray), Anne Boleyn (Susanna Moore), Queen Victoria (Abbie Muldrew), a Titanic survivor (Orla McKay), a Suffragette (Charlotte Robinson), a WWI soldier (Andrew Millar) and a WWII pilot (Alex Mitchell). Once again the enthusiasm and commitment of our Year 13 students helped to make it an enjoyable night for everyone.



# KS3 History Events

## Living History Day: Medicine Through the Ages

### YEAR 8

Both pupils and staff enjoyed the Medicine Through the Ages Workshop presented by the Living History Team from the Education Department at the Navan Centre Armagh. Our students were able to see and handle various surgical instruments used by doctors and dentists through the ages and gained a fascinating insight into medical practices from medieval times up to the 1800s. Pupils had the opportunity to participate in a series of gruesome experiments including a tooth extraction, bloodletting and even an amputation! The team from the Living History programme did an excellent job keeping Year 8 involved and bringing the past to life with their superb role play and characters dressed in full costume.



# The Somme Museum

## YEAR 9

Year 9 marked the centenary of the Battle of the Somme with a visit to the Somme Museum Bangor. The tour started with events in Ireland before the war at the time of the Third Home Rule Crisis. It followed the soldiers' journey from the recruiting office to the front line trenches and ended with a Battle of the Somme audio-visual display. During the tour the students were able to try on soldiers' uniforms and they gained a fascinating insight into living and working conditions in a frontline trench, a soldier's billet and a Field Hospital.

The students were also given a talk on weapons used by both the British and German soldiers and had an opportunity to handle other WWI artefacts. This trip provided our students with an excellent insight into WWI and enhanced their understanding of the sacrifice and suffering of the soldiers who fought in the Great War.



# Parliament Buildings, Stormont and Belfast City Tour

## YEAR 10

In June, Year 10 pupils visited Parliament Buildings Stormont and boarded the city sightseeing buses for a Belfast City Tour. This trip was part of a study of the history of Northern Ireland and The Troubles. At Stormont pupils were given a guided tour of the Great Hall, the historic Senate Chamber and even got to sit in the MLAs' seats in the Assembly Chamber! The tour provided information on Parliament Buildings past and present and gave pupils an excellent insight into the role of the Assembly, the work of MLAs and how the Assembly is relevant to them today.

### Highlights of the Belfast City Tour included:

- The Titanic Shipyard
- The Crumlin Road Jail and Courthouse
- The Belfast Peace Wall
- The Wall Murals of the Falls and Shankill Road
- Queen's University
- Belfast City Hall



# WWI BATTLEFIELDS TRIP FRANCE and BELGIUM 23rd - 26th June 2016



In June, 41 Year 9 and 10 pupils and 4 members of staff visited the WWI Battlefields of Northern France and Belgium. The purpose of this trip was to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme; visit key battlefield sites; discover the impact and legacy of the Great War and in particular to commemorate the sacrifice made by soldiers from Ulster and Banbridge Town and District in the Great War.

Highlights of the trip included:

### **Essex Farm.**

This is one of the best known sites in the Ypres Salient where John McCrae wrote his famous poem "In Flanders Fields". It is in this cemetery that the grave of one of the youngest soldiers who died in WWI can be found – Rifleman Strudwick killed in action aged 15.

### **Vimy Ridge.**

This was the scene of fierce fighting in 1917, when the Canadians successfully took the ridge from the Germans.

### **The Ulster Tower and Thiepval Wood.**

Built as a memorial copy of the tower that the 36th Ulster Division had trained under in Co. Down, the Tower marks

the area where the 36th Ulster Division advanced on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. During a guided tour of Thiepval Wood pupils saw original WWI trenches, bunkers and shell holes and a range of other WWI artefacts excavated at this site. Matthew McClimonds and Callum Johnston presented a school plaque to the custodians of the Ulster Tower on behalf of Banbridge Academy to commemorate the sacrifice of the 36th Ulster Division at the Somme.

### **The Last Post Ceremony.**

Emma Bingham, William White and Mr Erskine had the honour of taking part in this very special act of remembrance which happens every evening at 8pm at the Menin Gate in Ypres. The names of 15 soldiers from Banbridge and District are recorded on the Menin Gate.

### **The British Cemetery at Martinsart.**

A very poignant part of our trip included a visit to the British Cemetery at Martinsart, for a special act of remembrance to commemorate the sacrifice of 11 soldiers from Banbridge and Dromore who were hit by a German shell on the 28th June 1916, as they made their way through this small Picardy village, on their way to the Somme.

Amongst those killed outright were two soldiers from Banbridge, David Dale and James (John) Carson.

Joel Cromie read John McCrae's famous poem "In Flanders Fields" while Jennifer Whiteside and David Bailey laid a wreath on behalf of the pupils and staff of Banbridge Academy.

**"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."**

Other highlights included a trip to Bellewaerde Theme Park and to Irish Peace Tower.

The History department would like to thank all the staff and pupils who participated and helped to make all the events and trips such a success.

