

BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Week ending Friday 23 February 2018

From Jonathan Maddox, *Headteacher*

YEAR 10 STUDENTS VISIT THE BATTLEFIELDS - *Report by Lucy Cowell and Sophie Bannister*

At 05:45 on Wednesday 7 February, 40 Year 10 History students congregated in the chilly School car-park, looking forward to our trip to Belgium. We piled onto the coach and drove for 3 hours through rain, sleet and snow before picking up our guides, Rory and Jo, and boarding the ferry at Dover to cross over to Calais. We arrived in France at 13:30, greeted by sun, blue skies and a rather toasty 7°C. By this time, there was a definite sense of excitement on the coach - possibly due to the amount of sweets consumed on the ferry! We drove straight to Lijssenhoek Cemetery in Belgium, where we were confronted by 11,000 gravestones, a large white Cross of Sacrifice (proportional to the size of the cemetery) and a very friendly tabby cat which received lots of attention from our group.

The sight of the graves was harrowing to say the least, and as we wandered around we noticed the graves of the Chinese Labour Corps, segregated from the rest of the soldiers of France and the British Empire. We also saw an unusual headstone - unusual as below it lay the body of Nelly Spindler, a nurse from the British Army. She was one of only two women buried in Belgium after dying in battle in World War One, and on her grave lay a wreath of poppies. After the visit to Lijssenhoek we were taken to our hotel, where we had time to unpack and explore our dormitories before we walked to a local restaurant for a dinner of chicken and chips.

Day 2 began with a visit to Langemark, the site of a German cemetery. There were noticeable differences between this cemetery and the one we had visited the day before; whereas Lijssenhoek could be mistaken for an English country garden, Langemark had an atmosphere which can only be described as oppressive. It was also more compact, with 44,061 German soldiers buried there - 24,000 of these were buried in a large comrades' grave. Later that day, we travelled to the St. Julian memorial for the Canadians who had come in to hold the line after the first use of gas by the Germans. Here we learned about early gas masks and their development, and then got to try some on. We also visited a small replica trench where we got to hold a Lee-Enfield Rifle and some hand-grenades. Finally, we went to the Tyne Cot cemetery - the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and Memorial in the world - containing 12,000 graves and a pale Cross of Sacrifice mounted on top of some eight or ten steps.





After a dinner of spaghetti bolognese, we attended the Menin Gate Ceremony, a formal act of remembrance. This began by the Last Post being played on the bugle, then three of our students had the opportunity to lay a wreath for the soldiers whose names were inscribed on the walls of the memorial. The ceremony ended with two minutes of silence, after which the crowd began to melt away and we made our way back to the hotel once more.

We started day 3 with a two-hour bus ride into France to visit the Somme (half of our group didn't realise that we were in France, as there was no obvious sign of us crossing the border). In blizzard-like snow, we trudged our way to Serve Wood, where there was a memorial to the Accrington Pals. We then drove along what had once been the Somme front line to Newfoundland Wood, a preserved site given to Canada, where we could see the remains of the trenches and shell-holes. After lunch, we made our way to the Lochnagar Crater, where one of the mines was detonated on the first day of the Battle of the Somme - the sheer size of the 70 feet deep and 300 feet-wide crater was astonishing. Our penultimate stop of the day was a small cemetery atop a hill, from which we could see the site of what had once been a deadly machine-gun post. Here, we learnt about a captain who had predicted the mass slaughter of 1 July 1916 and yet, due to his low rank, he had been ignored and was forced to lead his men to their deaths. We saw his grave and the graves of most of his men. Our final stop took us to Thiepval Memorial, a stark tribute to the missing soldiers of the Somme. Here, we found the names of some of our relatives, and were able to hold our own small remembrance ceremonies, somewhat resembling that of the Menin Gate Ceremony the night before.



Day 4 dawned and it was almost time to go home, but not before a few final stops. We visited Essex Farm, where we learnt how the British Army dealt with injuries, and paid our respects to those buried there, including a 15-year-old soldier who had signed up at the age of 14. Before boarding the coach to return home, we were allowed some free time in Ypres, most of which was spent in the chocolate and souvenir shops. Finally, we caught the ferry at Calais and began to make our way back to School.

This was a harrowing yet fascinating trip which was enjoyed by all, and we would like to thank everyone who made it possible, in particular our History teachers, our very knowledgeable guides and our brilliant coach-driver who braved conditions most other coach companies would have refused to drive in.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Spring Recital Showcase - Thursday 26 April

Spring Recital Showcase is a new musical event that gives some of the School's brightest and talented musicians the opportunity to perform as a soloist in a formal concert setting. It promises to be an evening of the highest quality, with music from composers such as Mozart, Chopin, Brahms and Debussy being performed by students across all year groups.

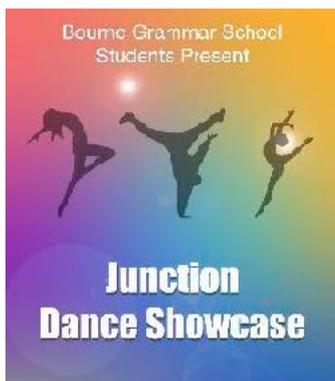
Tickets are available now via the School website or at www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/462222 - tickets are £7 for adults and £5 for concessions.



Grease - Wednesday 21 to Saturday 24 March

All performances of *Grease* are now sold out - those who would like to go on the waiting list for any available returns should email boxoffice@bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk, stating their name, telephone contact details, number of tickets required and the preferred performance.

Those who wish to return a ticket(s) should email boxoffice@bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk stating their name, the number of tickets to be returned and the performance date. A full refund will be given if we can sell the ticket(s) to someone on the waiting list.



Junction - Wednesday 28 February

With only a few days to go until Bourne Grammar School's first dance showcase, there is still enough time to buy your tickets and see some incredibly talented dancers from Years 7 to 12. The evening will include a variety of dance styles including ballet, contemporary, tap and acro, and a few surprises from the cast of *Grease* too!

Tickets are £6 for adults and £4 for concessions, and are available to purchase via the School website or www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/218044.

ARTWORK

Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 21 February was a great opportunity for current Year 10 and 11 Art students to exhibit their sketchbooks and final pieces. Below is an example of displays from the evening.



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

| Name | Year | Staff | Subject |
|---------------------|------|-----------------|--|
| Monika Aleksandrova | 7 | Mrs Woolf | Chemistry |
| Bella Skelton | 7 | Mr Brooker | English |
| Emily Clipson-Cox | 7 | Mr Maddox | Mathematics – Exceptional Achievement |
| James Pembery | 7 | Mr Maddox | Mathematics |
| Harry Ingram | 8 | Miss McDonnell | Mathematics |
| Daisy O'Rawe | 8 | Miss Creedon | Spanish |
| Maria Wright | 8 | Mrs Pignatiello | Drama |
| Rosie Carter | 9 | Mrs Cowell | French |
| Harry Golding | 9 | Mr Adamson | Mathematics |
| Jessica Gowers | 9 | Dr Hesslewood | Geography |
| Scott Merriman | 9 | Mrs Mohan | PE |
| Cody Roe | 9 | Miss Walters | English |
| Libby Friel | 10 | Miss Smallshaw | Chemistry |
| William Hawkins | 10 | Mr Sheppard | Statistics |
| Arshiya Kharel | 10 | Mrs Worrall | Spanish |
| Olivia Wood | 10 | Miss Hurrell | Spanish |
| Zoe Cawood | 11 | Mrs Clark | Spanish |
| Eve Conway | 11 | Mrs Shales | Mathematics |
| Sophie Kelly | 11 | Mrs Addison | English |

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Table Tennis Joseph Cox (Year 9) recently represented the School in the Lincolnshire Schools Table Tennis competition in the Under 16s category. He played exceptionally well and came second overall, losing 13-11 in the final game, which meant he narrowly missed out going through to represent Lincolnshire at the National Finals in Wolverhampton.

