



Spotlight on... Humanities

In this edition we will be taking a closer look at recent activities within the Humanities Department.

Battlefields Trip

Last year saw the commencement of the centenary celebrations for the First World War. To help schools commemorate the centenary, the Government developed a programme that gives state funded secondary schools in England, the opportunity to take 2 students to visit the battlefields on the Western Front. The programme plans to run from 2014-2019, and was an opportunity that the Humanities Department at the Academy could not pass up!

It was decided that Year 9 students would be selected for the trip as they focus on World War I in History. Last year, whilst in Year 8, all students were encouraged to enter a competition to help staff select who should be given this opportunity. Students were asked to research and write a trench diary, to demonstrate what soldiers had to experience whilst on the Western Front. The competition was fierce, and the Humanities Department had a very difficult decision to make. Finally, Chloe O'Driscoll and Sharon Mazura were selected to be the representatives from Ernulf Academy.

Both the students and I were in awe at how large the battlefields of the Somme and Ypres were and the visit really put into context what our soldiers faced in fighting for our peace and freedom.



Miss Wallace: We were selected to go on this trip because we won a competition last year. During this trip we were able to experience what it was really like in WWI for the soldiers. We went to different cemeteries including Tyne Cot, Lijssenthoek and Langemark (a German cemetery), where we were able to see how different countries remembered and buried their soldiers. We also went to some museums which increased our knowledge about the battles of WWI. Throughout this trip we were able to locate our local war dead; it was amazing to find out that people from our community fought during WWI and that they actually lived so close to where we live now.

Sharon: This trip helped me to realise how big an impact WWI had on the soldiers and their families. Every soldier has a story and I didn't realise how many men died until I saw all those graves in the cemetery. This trip was an experience that I'm glad I was given!

Chloe: It made me notice how important remembrance really is because saying that 500 people died makes you feel upset, but when you see 500 graves in a cemetery it is a real eye-opener and puts it all in perspective.

Clubs:

Breakfast Club: From 8.00am in the canteen free breakfast for all, get a good start to the day

Homework Club: Monday to Thursday after school 3.10 until 4.30pm in the Library

Chess Club: Every Monday 3.10 until 4.30pm in the Library

Science Club: Every Monday from 3.15 until 3.45pm in S2. Please ask Science for details.

Dates for Diary:

- Staff Training Day, no students in school – 13 April
- Summer term opens – 14 April



Forest School Curriculum

In the summer term the Humanities Department will be launching a new pilot curriculum for Year 7. This will involve the teaching of the Forest School ethos, an approach that has been developed in Scandinavia and has been quietly growing in the UK over the last decade.

The aim of this approach is to use the outdoor environment to enhance the teaching and learning opportunities for students both in an academic and personal development sense.

There has been lots of research in recent years about the advantages of learning outside the classroom walls and whilst primary schools have been proactive in this area for several years, it is an area that secondary education has still to embrace fully.

We believe strongly that this approach may have huge academic and social benefits for our students and are very excited about this opportunity to explore different approaches to teaching and learning.

Further information about the Forest Schools ethos can be found at:

<http://www.forestschoollassociation.org/what-is-forest-school/>

Look out for tweets and pictures from students on the Humanities Twitter page @Ernulf_OM.



DofE @Ernulf

Expedition season is now under way which means students involved have the opportunity to develop the range of skills needed in order for them to complete an important element of their DofE Awards. Already intrepid groups of students have completed their first practice walks successfully, and are now planning their next treks to practice further their navigational skills which will help them to prepare for their solo overnight expedition in May.

We are hopeful of having our first ever set of students complete their Bronze Awards before the end of summer term (and that includes Alf the Labrador!).

The scheme is currently open to KS4/5 students but we are planning to offer Year 9 students the opportunity to get involved after Easter, so watch out for more information soon.

If anyone would like any more information about this fantastic opportunity please see Mr Truett, Mrs Thatcher or Mr Magan. Alternatively visit www.dofe.org or visit our Twitter page @Ernulf_DofE for updates and news about DofE activities at Ernulf Academy.



Year 9 Air Raid Shelters

Year 9 students have been studying World War II in History and how people were protected from the German attacks. After examining the different types of air raid shelters in class, and completing additional research as homework, students were given the opportunity to build replicas in class. Some students chose to build a more accurate replica of an air raid shelter, whilst others chose to build their own design.

