

Wellington Commemorates WW1 with International Conference



Conference introduction



Poetry workshop with Mrs Sheils



World War 1 Songs



WW1 propaganda

Pupils at Wellington School had the exciting opportunity to be involved in an international conference from 10-13 November as part of the School's commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the 1914-18 War.

Young people from four schools in Europe joined Wellington pupils for the 4 day event held at the Gables Hotel in Irvine: the overseas participants came from the Lycée Sainte-Agnès, Angers, and the Lycée Sainte-Marie, Cholet, in France; and from the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, Dortmund, and the Evangelisches Gymnasium, Nordhorn in Germany.

This conference, hosted by Wellington School, and coordinated by International Co-ordinator Mrs Coontz with a lot of help from staff across the school, was supported by a generous grant from UCAPE (Union for Cultural and Professional Advancement in Europe) and contributes to a five-year programme of activities being coordinated by the Lycée Sainte-Marie. The outcomes of the conference will be shared with their international project and Wellington pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a visit to the Somme later in the programme.

The conference aim was not only to commemorate the events of a hundred years ago but also to celebrate the fact that we are now allies and friends and to strengthen ties between our schools and countries. To help in the building of friendships, a wide variety of cross-curricular activities took place over the four-day period. The young people worked together through the week in a series of workshops on various aspects of the First World War ranging from history, literature, graphic art and song to ballistic engineering for the Western Front and the role of the Nobel Prize-winning Fritz Haber in the development of explosives. They also considered First World War propaganda and the tradition of commemoration in Scotland. Outside speakers including SAFFA, the Armed Forces Charity, were invited to talk to the participants.

Although the language of this event was English, the pupils used German, French and English in all combinations to get their points across in their discussions. As Mrs Coontz, said to them on the first evening: "The most important thing is to communicate. Don't keep quiet because you don't know the correct word in English - use any language that you are happy with." As the first evening's workshops progressed, the increasingly lively buzz from around the tables provided evidence of the success of this advice. At the end of the week the young participants combined their language skills to write a multilingual report. This report will eventually be published on the UCAPE website, a real reward for all those involved as they see their own activities described online.

The last UCAPE conference hosted by Wellington was in 2011, when the topic was Water, the conference language was French, and the participants came from France, Germany, Slovenia and Scotland. Wellington prepares pupils for the UCAPE European Diploma, a prestigious award requiring a cultural exchange of not less than 2 weeks to a European country where a student will practice a second language in an immersion setting.

For the visiting pupils, many of whom had not visited Scotland before, the week was not all work and no play! Everyone enjoyed the all-day excursion to Edinburgh; to the National War Museum, Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile with free time for shopping and sight-seeing. Early in the week the evening entertainment included a ceilidh with a group from Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra providing live music, which undoubtedly helped people get to know each other better. Other leisure activities included a visit to LA Bowl bowling and Lazerquest, and plenty of opportunities to try some traditional Scottish food.

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Wellington hosts WW1 conference



● Wellington P7 and S1 pupils visited war graves at the Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium earlier this year.

● PUPILS at Wellington School have an exciting opportunity to be involved in an international conference from 10-13 November as part of the School's commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the 1914-18 War.

Wellington pupils will be joined by young people from three partner schools in Europe: Lycée Sainte-Agnès, Angers, France; Lycée Sainte-Marie, Cholet, France and the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, Dortmund, Germany. In addition, the Evangelisches Gymnasium Nordhorn, will also be sending pupils. The 56 participants will be staying at the Gailles Hotel in Irvine for the event.

This conference, hosted by Wellington School, is being supported by a generous grant from UCAPE (Union for Cultural and Professional Advancement in Europe) and contributes to a five-year programme of activities being coordinated by the Lycée Sainte-Marie. The outcomes of the conference will be shared with their international project and Wellington pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a visit to the Somme later in the programme.

The conference aims not only to commemorate the events of a hundred years ago but also to celebrate the fact that we are now allies and friends and to strengthen ties between our schools and countries.

Cross-curricular activities will take place over the four-day period with the conference closing on the evening of 13 November. The young people will work together over the week in a series of workshops on various aspects of the First World War ranging from history, literature, graphic art and song to ballistic engineering for the Western Front and the role of the Nobel Prize-winning Fritz Haber in the development of explosives. They will also consider First World War propaganda and the tradition of commemoration in Scotland. Outside speakers including SAFFA, the Armed Forces Charity, have been invited to talk to the participants. The language of the conference will be English.

The week will not only consist of work however – there will be an excursion to Edinburgh to the National War Museum, Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile with free time for shopping and sight-seeing and evening entertainment includes a ceilidh, bowling and the sampling of traditional Scottish food.