



ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE NORTH ABOUT THE FIRST WORLD WAR

For the *We Were There Too* team here in the North West it has been a very exciting first year. We would like to take this opportunity to share with you how we have been using our website and research to educate primary and secondary school pupils on Jewish life during the First World War, and how we would like to expand and continue to do so across the region.



Year 5 pupils at Broughton Jewish Primary School

So far the project has engaged with over 900 primary school and 240 secondary school pupils in 8 different schools across the North West, in a range of classroom workshops, assemblies and presentations all about the topic of the First World War.

So how can *We Were There Too* help and support schools by making a topic which is more than 100 years old appeal to students in both primary and secondary schools?

Using the [We Were There Too website](https://www.jewsww.co.uk) the team have developed programmes, interactive presentations and workshops that engage with both primary and secondary school students. Below are a couple of examples of our delivery so far.

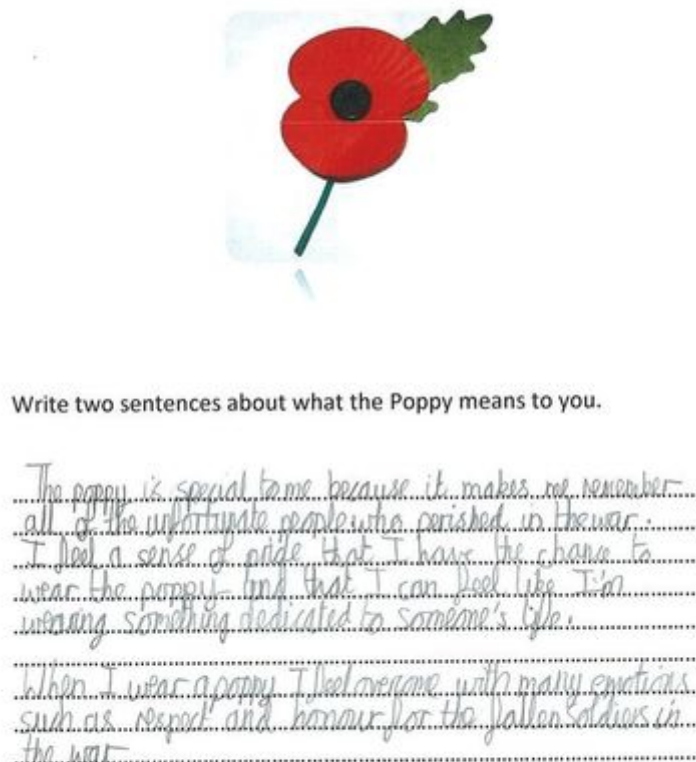


A pupil from Bury and Whitefield Primary School using an interactive whiteboard to pick out a name on our Memorial Wall

PRIMARY SCHOOLS - YEARS 5 AND 6

Using a PowerPoint presentation we:

- Introduce the overarching theme of the First World War
- Discuss the poppy and invite the students to write their thoughts about the poppy on a worksheet, an example of which can be seen below:



- Discuss communications in the First World War and letters from the frontline. We play a recording of a letter home from a soldier. We then give each student a biography of a soldier or nurse, taken from the WWTT website and ask each student to compose a letter home to a parent or sibling listed on the biography.
- Using the interactive Memorial Wall on the website students can go live and read some of the 2000 names we have recorded.
- Finally we show a short black and white film from 1903 which always raises interest and awareness.

Running through the presentation students are given a wordsearch to keep their interest.



Pupils at King David Primary School, Liverpool in one of our workshops

Ali Kaye from Jewish Day School in Prestwich said of our work with them:

"Just wanted to say a huge thank you to all of you for the most wonderful presentation today. In every way, it 'ticked' our targets and rounded off our study of World War One in a fabulous fashion. The children were thoroughly engaged throughout and the presentation gave them the combined opportunity to revise what they had learnt, whilst looking at a new perspective of life for Jewish soldiers in the war."

NURSES IN the FIRST WORLD WAR

Ethel Esther Hassan

Born 1893

Died 1966

Age 73



FAMILY

SIBLINGS

Luly Hassan (female)

PARENTS

Father: Clemente Hassan (male)Mother: Diamantina Hassan (female)

Write a short letter home to all or one of your family and tell them about the soldiers you have been looking after in hospital.

Dear Mother and father,

The days are going fast. More and more wounded soldiers are coming in. I would hate to be in their shoes. I am looking after many people. One told me that he had almost shot another soldier who took his life and jumped in front of him. How could any one do that. Luckily that man is now recovering. Don't worry about me. I have enough to do and send. I hope you are all well. Love Ethel.

Examples of a letter home written by a pupil as if they were the nurse Esther Ethel Hassan

SECONDARY SCHOOLS - YEAR 9

Engaging Year 9 students with WWTT is done in a more formal classroom environment and is led by Paula Kitching who is the Project Historian. We examine the war from all angles; looking at not just the battlefields but how the map of the world and society changed, and connect it to the students' lives in 2019-2020. Below is an example of a full morning session delivered to Manchester High School for Girls Year 9.

A 40 minute presentation to all of Year 9 (120 students) followed by 4 workshops using the schools own archives, focussing on one aspect of the war in more detail, and how their school was connected. The workshops were:

1. Women: The different roles occupied by women: women's football, women's role in the RAF, munitions factories and in nursing.
2. Empire and Commonwealth: Case studies of other ethnic groups who served, including letters sent home from servicemen. We examine with students how men from very different backgrounds began to impact on the class structure in the UK
3. Beyond the Western Front: Details about the service by men and women in Gallipoli, the Middle East and The Balkans.

4. The Belgian Connection: Belgian Refugees in the UK. This workshop was researched and designed especially for MHSG.



Pupils from Manchester High School for Girls making jam for injured Belgian soldiers during the war, from the MHSG archives. Pupils in the workshop really liked learning what past pupils from their school did to help the war effort

One of the main aims of these workshops is to inspire and encourage students to research on the WWTT website and other websites that offer information about the period.

MHSG archivists Gwen Hobson and Pam Roberts said after our morning at the school:

"We wanted to say how much we enjoyed the workshop on Wednesday. Paula's talk was brilliant and really made the girls think about the war in a different way. The activities kept the girls absorbed and we know that they will have gained so much from the experience in terms of research skills, as well as knowledge... We think that your project is so worthwhile and we are delighted to have been part of it."

Although the project is mainly concerned with the Jewish Communities contribution to the First World War, much of what we look at through the website mirrors the wider community's contribution. Additionally if your school has a particular link to the First World War we can plan a programme specifically looking at this link within the context of a presentation.



A memorial designed by MHSG pupils in the Belgian Connection workshop delivered December 2019

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

An integral part of the website is the [Education Section](#), which can be found through the main menu on the front page of the site.

The education resources in this section are designed to support the British Values requirement and lessons in History and Citizenship. All the resources are aimed at Key Stages 2 & 3 unless stated otherwise and can be adapted dependent on students' needs.

This section contains a series of lessons or investigations into each of the five concepts identified as a British Value: the Rule of Law, Trust, Tolerance and Inclusivity, Fairness, and Honesty. Each of the investigations uses a combination of historical information and real-life experiences to address the importance and meaning of the particular British value.

All the content you will see on this education portal has been developed in partnership with the London Grid for Learning Trust and has been verified by our team as 'school safe' material.



British Values

DISCOVERY EDUCATION

Our partnership with Discovery Education is going to mean engaging with pupils in a way they may not have experienced before, making it an even more exciting way of learning and connecting with the subject of the First World War.

"Discovery Education create content for schools across the UK and the World connecting with over 50 million pupils globally. We are constantly looking for new ways to connect with learners and enable them to engage with complex and sometimes abstract concepts. Working with WWTT has given us an opportunity to develop techniques to bring voices back from the past using cutting edge technology. This complements our work on WW1 recreating the trenches in virtual reality and the wider themes of the conflict in augmented reality. These techniques create an instant and memorable connection with the user that in this case helps to convey the personal journeys and sacrifice of Jewish soldiers and nurses involved in WW1. Using technology in this way is a very powerful tool in bringing history to life in the classroom. Creating a personal connection with the voices from the past is also important, so members of the Jewish communities from which they came have voiced their stories that are then used to bring the 3D models to life in amazing augmented reality."

Phil Birchinall, Senior Director | Immersive Content Discovery Education



Discovery Education

Thank you for reading. We hope you will agree that *British Jews in the First World War – We Were There Too* offers a unique insight into the events and outcomes of the War in the UK and across the globe. Using the website we truly believe that we bring an entirely different perspective on the events of 1914 -1919 and present this to students from Year 5 up to Year 9 and beyond.

Over the next 12 months we anticipate working with a further 900 primary and 250+ secondary school pupils as we begin to work closely with more and more schools across the region.

To get in touch, call us on 0161 767 8890, email contactus@jewsffw.uk or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @jewsffw

The North West Team

Project centre:
Park Lane, Whitefield,
Manchester, M45 7PB
+44 (0) 161 767 8890
<https://www.jewsffw.uk>



LEARNING • CULTURE • PARTNERS



[Unsubscribe from the newsletter](#)