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## ***Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914–1918**

**Remembering the First World War – exemplar application  
and evaluation: Fitzalan High School**

ISBN 978 1 4734 3730 2  
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WG25545

## **Fitzalan High School, Cardiff Project Proposal**

**Project title:** First World War Commemoration Day and Trench Experience

**Learning outcomes:** learners will be able to see and experience trench life in a replica trench. They will also understand the wider experience of war as they take part in a carousel of activities from a range of subjects that deal with issues such as the death toll, the destinations of volunteers from Cardiff, the food from the trenches, First World War drill etc. The lives and experiences of local soldiers from will be explored and the contribution of soldiers from the wider empire investigated. This will then culminate in an act of remembrance to help pupils bring their experiences together and evaluate the impact of the First World War.

**Learners involved:** all KS3 pupils (years 7-9)

**Outline of activities with an estimated/approximate timeframe:** trench building will commence in **June**. The trench will then be 'dressed' to appear as it would have done during First World War. This will be completed throughout the remainder of **June**. There will be a First World War commemoration day in July (**probably 10<sup>th</sup> July**), where all KS3 pupils will be taken off timetable. They will complete a carousel of activities, each dealing with an aspect of war and reinforcing the Welsh contribution, which will include a visit to the trench and a session with a First World War re-enactor. The day will conclude with an act of remembrance.

**Community links:** primary school pupils will be invited to use the trench as part of their activities on their secondary school 'taster day'. They will also be invited to come up in small class groups to use the trench as a learning resource during the school year. There has also been interest shown by local residents and youth groups.

### **Outcomes/legacy?**

The trench will form a permanent memorial of the First World War and feature in all of the commemorations from 2014-2018 and beyond. This will be used by pupils at Fitzalan and our feeder primaries as a learning resource.

### **Expenditure**

Trench building £1500

Artefacts and replica uniforms £1000

Re-enactors and workshops £500

In addition to the £1000 that we are hoping to receive from Wales Remembers we have funding confirmed from Families First. Cost for staff involvement will be covered by the school.

## **Fitzalan High School, Cardiff, Project Evaluation**

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**Evaluation:** With the assistance of 'History Needs You', the history department designed and constructed a replica First World War trench. The structure is permanent and will remain a teaching resource for Fitzalan pupils and pupils of other schools for the duration of the centenary commemorations. The trench is also a focus for remembrance. Artefacts such as uniforms, replica rifles and gas masks were purchased to enhance the pupil's experience of the trench.

The first use for the completed trench was on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014 when all of Key Stage 3 were involved in a First World War Centenary Day. Every department across the school created activities that were related to the First World War such as the music department doing First World War era music, the art department made tissue paper poppies, maths made large infographics of the casualty statistics and the Modern Foreign Languages department made postcards from the front in French. The design technology department made small poppy crosses, each inscribed with the name of a local person that died in the First World War. The First World War Centenary Day included two assemblies (one at the beginning and a more reflective one at the end) and throughout the day every pupil visited the replica trench and a 'Tommy' re-enactor.

The trench project and the First World War Centenary Day were a huge success and there was a real sense that pupils had gained a deeper understanding of the First World War, its significance and in some way engaged with the issues of the First World War through experiencing the trench. The project will continue over the coming years with a possible extension to the trench, research into local First World War history and possibly trips to the real trenches and war graves in Belgium and France.

Here are some pictures of the work.

Website\*

<http://fitzalan.cardiff.sch.uk/>

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