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

**Remembering the First World War – exemplar application and
evaluation: Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron**

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Proposal box

Project title: Mural commemorating local contribution, the Aberaeron area to the First World War effort.

Learning outcomes:

Learners will learn about the experiences of people from their area during the First World War and will become to understand the time better. They will build relationships with the community and have the experience of working as a team to promote their collaborative skills and creativity. The history will be recorded in a remembrance mural on the walls of the High School, which will be accessible for generations.

Learners involved: Year 9 pupils (about 100). Year 5 pupils will have the opportunity to visit local primary schools high school to see the plans. (about 30) Lessons and activities will be organized to coincide with the project and primary school pupils will be able to offer ideas about what will be included in the mural.

Outline of activities with an estimated/approximate timetable:

During the summer (July 2014), primary school pupils will visit the high school to learn about the war, the local history of the war and will contribute ideas for the mural.

Outline of activities and estimated timescale:

The pupils will meet with community members who have already established a 'First World War Memorial Committee, Aberaeron Town'. Local artefacts, letters, memories and all kinds of local historical material have been collected. They will have time to explore different stories and characters and their contribution to the local war effort in history lessons. (September 2014)

The pupils will plan (September 2014) and then create the mural, working with a prominent local artist. Local elements will be made clear in the work. (October 2014)

Community links:

They will develop links with the community by having the opportunity to work with members of the War Memorial Committee in Aberaeron and a creative record of what has been learned will be produced. It will be a noticeable visual record and will be available to all pupils at the school, for pupils in Years 5 and 6 who often visit the school on tasting and transition days. The mural will be in a very prominent place at the school, it will be permanent record to the wider community who use the school as a teaching centre.

Outcomes/legacy?

Local evidence gathering. Creates an artistic record. Will lead learning in future. The mural will stimulate discussion among pupils and provide motivation in school history lessons for years to come. Hopefully it will inspire many pupils to find out about their local history.

Itemised expected expenditure:

Cost for a day of supply teacher to prepare resources and to glean information and meet with members of the town First World War memorial committee = 1 day @ £ 187

Paint and drawing resources = £ 213

Local artist to work with pupils = £ 600

Form to claim the grant, Remember WWI: Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron Project

Evaluation of the project:

It has been a great project for the school as it strengthened links with the community and has sparked curiosity among pupils about their area during the First World War. Aberaeron Society members came to share stories of the war with the pupils, the history of the area's residents and former pupils of Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron. As part of the collaboration and the gathering local evidence, pupils prepared work for the exhibition, 'Time to Remember' in association with Peniel chapel in town. The pupils visited the exhibition and gleaned more local stories about the Great War in the chapel from Euros Lewis from the local theatre, Theatr Felin Fach. After collecting their information locally, they began planning the mural. Pupils from primary schools on transition day had the opportunity to design and work with pupils. The mural is full of local references and has been designed in a very clever way by the pupils, full of powerful images and messages. There was an opportunity to discuss the contribution of the local area in more depth in the history lessons. The project has deepened pupils' knowledge of the area during the war, the losses, the contribution of women to the work of the War, and their own personal family histories.

Thanks for the opportunity to undertake a project of this type. It has been an invaluable opportunity. Students worked with a talented artist, we have strengthened relations in society between schools and the community, but most importantly it has taught the pupils about their past - this is crucial to understand and learn about the present. The mural will be a subject for discussion and learning in society for decades to come.

P.S. the work was completed earlier than originally stated. We were able to meet all the objectives.

Here are some pictures of the work.

Websites- www.facebook.com/pages/Ysgol-Gyfun-Aberaeron/383015885126816
www.ygaberaeron.org.uk
www.cymdeithasaberaeron.org
www.cambrian-news.co.uk

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