



TRIP TO BEBINGTON DAY CARE CENTRE By HANNAH MILES 12EC

As part of my Health and Social Care A'Level Course – Positive Care Environments, I went to the Bebington Day Care Centre. It was a very interesting visit and we were able to see how the Centre is run to address the needs of the clients. We were also able to chat with the clients and this was really helpful in finding out the difficulties they face, and how they are overcome.

Going back to put up the Christmas Decorations was a very rewarding experience and seeing the pleasure on the clients' faces made the hard work worthwhile, as you will see from the picture below.

ALADDIN

Last week saw the staging of the latest offering from the Saint John Plessington Creative Team, the hilarious pantomime 'Aladdin'. Both performances played to sell-out audiences who enjoyed the show tremendously.

The College community was fully behind the production with many staff involved in the staging of the performances. The pupils, working co-operatively with all concerned, achieved a high level of performance excellence.

The Creative Team would like to thank the choirs of St. John's and St. Anne's Primaries, as well as our own Year 7 Choir, for their great contribution to the evening's entertainment.

Well done to everybody, especially the fabulous cast who worked tirelessly and professionally. They proved themselves to be real stars, and kept the audience in stitches. Who knows, today SJP - tomorrow the West End?



COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE

A reminder that the Annual College Carol Service will take place this Thursday 14th December at 7.00pm.

All College parents and pupils (in uniform) are very welcome to attend and we hope to see you there in good numbers to help us prepare for the Christmas Season.

Mince pies and refreshments will be available after the service.

There will be no charge for your tickets but booking them in advance will assist in the preparation of the hall and refreshments.

Please contact Linda Ledsom, School Office for tickets.



HISTORY DEPARTMENT TRIP TO THE BATTLEFIELDS OF WORLD WAR ONE

As part of SJP's contribution to the commemoration of those who perished in the Great War, and in an attempt to provide pupils with a first hand experience of the events they study, thirty six Year 10 GCSE History students were given the opportunity to be part of the World War One experience. Our pupils were encouraged to empathise with the fallen at the locations referred to in their studies, especially the site of that most famous of British battles, the Battle of the Somme.

We made an early start on the morning of 30th November and by 6.30am had begun our coach journey south for the Eurostar to France. By early evening we had reached Diksmuide in Belgium, our 'HQ' for the duration of the trip, and on the following morning began our visits to the famous sites along the river Somme.

We first visited the eerily silent trenches in Newfoundland Memorial Park where a solitary caribou stands in silent tribute above the unmarked resting places of thousands of Canadians and other empire troops. Here students made their way around craters and piles of corroding forty pounder shells before entering the now grass covered remains of the trenches themselves.

In the afternoon our party made their way to Thiepval Memorial Park where a vast mausoleum has been erected in memory of over 72, 000 unknown soldiers whose remains lie scattered across the farmland of Northern France. Students could study vast swathes of their names etched into the sandstone interior of the memorial arch, whose dome can be spotted from miles around.

Visiting Thiepval allowed pupils to come to terms with the magnitude of the conflict and the vast numbers of men slaughtered for only a few kilometres of land. The significance of these events can often be lost when school books inform them in flat prose that 20, 000 men lost their lives on the first day of the Somme offensive. However, Thiepval's grim roll call of the missing defies the observer not to empathise with their sacrifice.

The pinnacle of the trip for both staff and pupils was Friday evening's visit to the town of Ypres, on the Belgian salient, for a moving commemoration ceremony beneath the famous Menin Gate. Beneath the arches of the memorial we observed young British soldiers lay wreaths in memory of the fallen as a brass section solemnly played the last post to a silent crowd.

On the final day of our tour we once again travelled to the Ypres Salient to visit the Cloth Hall museum where students could interact with a variety of displays recreating the terrifying reality of the trenches. Later students visited the site of 'Hill 68' to explore a large section of original trench. The area allows visitors to really come to terms with the trench experience of the average 'Tommy' as the proprietors have dutifully preserved a line of typical British trenches complete with tunnels, bunkers, support trenches and craters filled with pools of festering sludge.

It was not hard to image the sights, sounds and smells of battle as students stormed the opposing trench and bravely made their way through the darkness of a tunnel network designed to preserve the lives of men during fearsome bombardments. Pupils could imagine the officer's whistle informing men, some as young as themselves, that it was time to 'hop the bags' and pour 'over the top' for perhaps the last time.

I am grateful to all of the staff and pupils involved in making our trip such a memorable experience. Students were starkly reminded of the futility of modern war and the sickening losses experienced by all sides during a protracted and terrifying conflict. Our time in France and Belgium has left a deep and lasting impression on all of us.

Advent

*Prepare the way of the Lord
Isaiah 40:3*

Here, Isaiah is prophesying about the Messiah. He is telling the people to be ready for when the Messiah comes. The message is the same to us: *Prepare!* The supermarkets tell us we should be prepared for Christmas by buying extra food, the toyshops tell us we should be prepared for Christmas by buying lots of toys, the TV tells us we should be ready be prepared for Christmas by spending, spending, spending our hard earned cash. We should not forget Isaiah's message of preparing a way for the Lord. Advent is the time to make way for Jesus in all aspects of our lives and we can do this by spending time with him and with those we love.

*Heavenly Father,
This Advent, help us not to forget the reason for Christmas.
Help us to be aware that our preparations are leading us
towards celebrating the birth of your son, Jesus, so that this
Christmas we will know the presence of Him in our lives.
Amen*

There will be a short Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8.15 in the College Chapel. Pupils and staff are welcome

NUMERACY BRAINTEASER

A triangular field has a tree in each corner and there are five trees along each side. How many trees are there altogether?

Answers to Miss Hodges in B12 by Friday 15th December 2006. All correct entries will be put into a draw to win a £5 Gift Voucher for W H Smiths.

Last week's answer: £163.83

Last week's winner James Kinsella 8EA

HOUSE POINT CORNER

	Weekly total as at 01/12/06					Overall Total To date
	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	
Bernadette	63	52	34	30	9	1655
Bosco	67	45	24	20	15	1461
Hume	75	35	48	26	5	1507
Kolbe	49	48	28	31	7	1530
Romero	63	32	34	31	8	1547
Teresa	59	42	62	28	9	1642

