



Photo: Courtesy of I.M Panagiotopoulos School

Salonika Remembers

A new educational programme that explores the WWI graves of servicemen and women from across the Commonwealth, who died and are buried here in Northern Greece. During the centenary of the First World War, together we will research the stories of the Salonika Campaign and the personal experiences of those from across the world whose final resting place is here in our local community, yet unknown and almost forgotten by many who live here today.

Who are they? Where did they come from? Who will remember them?

The workshop aims to develop (with participating teachers) an outdoor learning experience and lesson plan to support WWI history, remembrance, social values and cultural education, English language learning. Together, we wish to create a centenary project that reflects upon past conflict whilst exploring progressive themes of remembrance and commemoration, globally.

Workshop overview:

On March 12th, we will hold a workshop session, delivered by staff from Commonwealth War Graves Commission, followed by a visit to **CWGC Mikra Cemetery** where there are 1,810 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, and 147 war graves of other nationalities. The following themes will be covered as follows:

Part 1: Classroom session, 10.00am

Welcome and introduction to the workshop. Aims of the workshop

- **Historical context:** The local historical picture, what do you know, what would you like to learn more about? A presentation will be given, a discussion will be facilitated on the Salonika Campaign.
- **The People. Research**, using our database to find out about the lives of the men and women from WWI, who are buried in Thessaloniki. Individual stories. We will guide you through this process.
- **Remembrance and Commemoration.** Why do we remember, how do we remember? Explorations of cultural rituals, values and traditions of remembrance.
- **Creative response: Poetry, reflection, writing, memorialisation and architecture.**
- **Never Such Innocence** will introduce their work curating a prestigious WWI art competition for schools, explaining how your school can take part.

Lunch 12.00 – 12.30

Travel to Mikra

Part 2: The Outdoor Classroom 13.00 – 14.00

Enhancing the visit to the local CWGC cemetery

- Introduction to the cemetery and tour of key features, CWGC staff presentation.
- Visit the graves of the people you have researched
- Find key features and individuals
- Present your event or creative work/response

Part 3: Final evaluation and feedback 14.00 – 15.00**We will offer opportunities to feedback on the following themes, in groups**

1. **Context** – how much history to include in the final pack
2. **Research** – the tools needed, how practical is the approach
3. **Identifying casualties to research and remember** - was this task engaging?
4. **Cemetery visit:** how to enhance the experience and ensure it's suitable for a class
5. **Ideas for acts of remembrance at the cemetery**
6. **The creative response and art competition** – how to extend the learning.

By the end of this exploratory workshop, we aim to have a clear path to implementing this project in Greece, in collaboration with schools and educators.

2017 key dates following the workshop:

1. **April:** final school's resource pack will be completed based on feedback from workshop on the 12th and workshop teachers deliver the project
2. **June:** meeting with project partners at Mikra to review the pilot. To begin media engagement and interview teachers who participated, filming the response.
3. **September:** official launch of the project, launch event
4. **September 2017 – June 2018:** programme implementation in schools. In parallel, participating schools will have the opportunity to enter their work in to an International Art and Poetry Competition and an exhibition in 2018 curated by never Such Innocence, UK arts charity working globally with schools on First World war engagement projects.

Pilot: 2016, some feedback:

"They are not Greek but they are in our city now, and travelled from very faraway places and were our age, same age. We should visit them and remember them here" Student - I.M Panagiotopoulos School
The students who took part in the pilot made a film and interviewed each other about the project. You can watch here:

<https://vimeo.com/189105825>

Information is also available at <https://www.britishcouncil.gr/en/events/salonika-remembers>

To register your interest and find out more about the project, please contact Chrysoula Melidou by e-mail at Chrysoula.Melidou@britishcouncil.gr or by phone on 2310 378 314