

AMBROSE YOUNG MEN VISIT FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLEFIELDS

Young historians from St. Ambrose College have paid homage to the fallen on a trip to the First World War killing fields.

Mentored by Major Nicholas Haines, who acted as the Battlefield Guide, the boys, not much younger than those slaughtered 100 years ago, visited the Island of Ireland Peace Park at Messines and took part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, laying a wreath on behalf of the College. The party, in growing recognition of the significance of the trip, then conducted their own private act of remembrance at Tyne Cot, laying a wreath emblazoned with the St. Ambrose College badge and spending time in prayer and reflection.



Pictured by a war grave, on the left is Adam Murray and to the right Joseph Steele.

Such was the impact of the experience, it has now been decided St. Ambrose will organise an annual tour, alternating between the sites of the First and Second World Wars.

Next May a party will visit Dunkirk to see the sites of the Normandy landings and will be open to all boys in years 9 and 10 irrespective of their choice to study GCSE History.

Adam Murray, 12, from Timperley, said: "The Battlefields trip was worthwhile and very moving. It got you thinking about the amount of people involved and the people who sadly lost their lives in the First World War. I learnt a lot about the war during the trip."

Joseph Steele, 13, from Flixton, said: "The trip was interesting and enjoyable. I learned so much about World War One and the young men who made such a sacrifice."

Matthew O'Neill, Head of Theology and Religious Education, who organised and led the trip said: "The centenary of the Battle of the Somme made this year's trip particularly poignant. The opportunity to visit the sites of blood stained battle helped the boys develop their understanding of these events and their international significance."