

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a pilot supported by a large academy trust
Curriculum Provision	✓	Key Stage 3 topic about The Empire in WW1 and WW2
Employer Partnerships	✓	Informed by notable individuals with expert knowledge
Reflective Young People	✓	Contributing to understanding about diversity
Informed Career Choices	✓	Presenting individuals with inspiring career stories

Expert knowledge and personal stories bring 'The Empire' to life for year 9 students

During Key Stage 3, students at the Rawlett School in Tamworth learn in History about, 'The British Empire: Was it a force for good or evil?' The teacher brief for this project stated, *'This is an engaging topic, however we really want students to critically analyse Britain's role in gaining an Empire and the impact that the Empire has on today's society. We would also like students to be engaged more with the concept of 'interpretation'. This is a particularly difficult concept to teach.'* Her reasons for choosing the topic included, *'A better understanding of the Historical concept of 'interpretations'; boys' engagement; disadvantaged students may have limited local/wider knowledge of place and issues and aspirations- employment and skills link'.*

Following an introduction by Birmingham Central Mosque, a notable military historian provided current and thought-provoking resources about the lasting effects of The Raj in India. The Covid-19 crisis required changes to how project proceeded, with most students no longer at school. Resources sent home began with the message, *'Hello Year 9! We have a very exciting project lined up for you to take part in! As you know we had just started studying World War Two when we were in school and you have done a brilliant job at studying about it virtually! Had we have still been in school we would have been taking on a project that would involve a visit from a real historian and an interactive exhibition of World War Artefacts.'*

Although it was not possible to arrange a visit by the historian and his 'Shared Histories' exhibition, a notable entrepreneur and philanthropist, originally from Pakistan, talked online about his family's extensive military service, as well as encouraging students to apply their skills beyond school.

Benefits for the Students

I am most proud of:

- *'Learning about my individual personal skills and abilities.'*
- *'The achievement I am proud of is the newspaper article as it was the most informative and it made me think why don't we remember these people.'*
- *'I managed to stay positive, even though I struggled with the task at the beginning.'*
- *'I know what I could do after school.'*

Benefits for the School

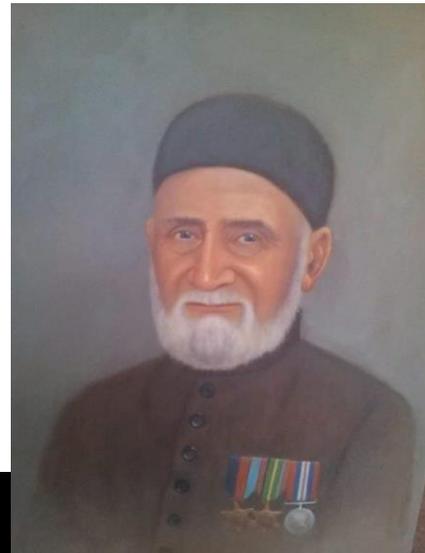
- *'It is going well. Obviously, we are having challenges engaging pupils, as all schools are. As well as this, as we are not in the classroom with them, we are limited in ways we can encourage the usual high standard of work ... I have attached some stand out work from students I feel have put a lot of effort in.'* (Teacher)
- *'Some more fantastic work on Walter Tull! We have some creating and remarkable Historians! Well done Isabel year 9 for this remarkable work.'* (School Twitter page)

Benefits for the Employer

- As well as being military history researcher, Jahan Mahmood, *'... used to consult as a counter-terror adviser to the Home Office, now does training courses for councils. But the actual counter-extremism work he does on the ground is all on a voluntary basis, raising resources from the local community. "I can't take government funding, because I would find myself compromised,"'* (Guardian 2016)
- Zulfi Hussain is frequently involved in charity work and community initiatives.



Jahan Mahmood
Historian



Local military historian Jahan Mahmood provided a series of video clip links to stimulate students' thinking about the impact of The Raj on current British society. Feedback about the students' work was sent via a Zoom interview by entrepreneur Zulfi Hussain MBE, who also shared stories about his family's military service.



zulfi-interview
Zulfi Hussain MBE