

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional Careers Hub initiative for Careers Leaders
Curriculum Provision	✓	Year 8 History: Causes of the First World War
Employer Partnerships	✓	Editorial coverage of student work by a local publication
Reflective Young People	✓	Giving insights into a major historic event
Informed Career Choices	✓	Revealing roles in the publishing and journalism

Local publisher selects student writing about the risk of a future global conflict

Year 8 students at Oasis Academy Brislington in Bristol consider ‘What caused the Great war?’ and ‘How did one bullet lead to war?’ as they cover a unit titled, ‘How did the Great War shape Europe?’. The teacher brief stated that, *‘It is a missed opportunity in the curriculum and a real chance for students to comprehend second order historical concepts in a significant case study’* and an ideal outcome would be for students, *‘... to confidently engage in debate over the most significant factor in the build up to the war and address the issue of blame for the Great War’*.

The project focused attention on a government report suggesting that, ‘... there is growing recognition that climate change may aggravate existing threats to international peace and security’. Partners considered to provide external input about this ‘case study’ for the students included Extinction Rebellion. Publication in local media was felt to be a less controversial way of giving value to students’ views on the topic and an approach to two publications.

Bristol24/7 is the South West’s biggest independent magazine and website, providing news, features, what’s on listings and more. The Production Editor’s response to the request for involvement was an immediate, *‘Thanks for getting in touch. This sounds like a really good idea. I wonder if it could take the form of half a dozen smaller opinion pieces of 200 words or so each, which can then be put into one longform piece?’*. These pieces were selected from a dozen or so sent by the lead teacher, who pointed out that, *‘...we have weekly ‘subject stars’ where students are praised for their effort/attainment and I think your feedback would be an excellent way to promote the work of the students.’*

Benefits for the Students

- The Production Editor sent a detailed email with positive general feedback and suggestions for improvements when writing for publication, before giving specific feedback about the best four pieces of writing.

The achievement I am most proud of as a result of this experience is:

‘Enjoying this topic.’

‘Understanding how things like war affect people.’

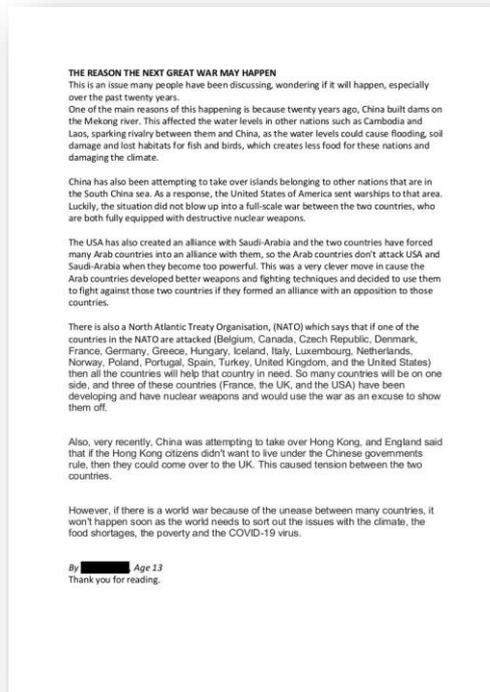
‘Getting better at the subject.’

Benefits for the School

- Delivered during the COVID crisis: *'... the project was affected by the lockdown, it would have been more effective and pervasive if it could have been delivered face to face and supported in person as the uptake amongst the students was lower than expected.'*
- Would you repeat the experience? *'Absolutely, students who did engage with the project seemed to enjoy it, I would happily recommend making the project a feature of the curriculum moving forwards year on year.'*

Benefits for the Employer

- *'It was great to be able to add to students' learning experience. The contact between staff was great, and it has been great to learn more about young people's thoughts (and hopefully publish these for a wider audience).'*
- Would you repeat the experience? *'Yes, this would be great. Something similar would be awesome, especially if it could be most Bristol-focused (as we're a Bristol-focused publication).'*



Year 8 students used a report highlighting the risk climate change triggering a global conflict to reflect on the causes of WW1. They knew that the best of their written work would be sent to local publication B24/7 who wanted to compile a feature story on this subject.

