

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional Careers Hub initiative for Careers Leaders
Curriculum Provision	✓	Year 8 History: 'How WW2 is remembered'
Employer Partnerships	✓	Inspired by residents from a local care home
Reflective Young People	✓	Students moved by first-hand accounts about 'History'
Informed Career Choices	✓	A positive story about working in Social Care

### First-hand stories of the Bristol Blitz motivate and move Year 8 History students

The History teacher at Oasis Academy Brislington in Bristol described the challenge of teaching 'How WWII is remembered in Britain and beyond' to Year 8 students: *'This topic is complex chronologically and geographically and something students struggle to grasp in the small amount of space given to it in the curriculum. It is another missed opportunity for the students to engage with a breadth of historical material and to comprehend history and popular memory.'*

The school is close to a dozen residential care homes, so it was agreed that *'an interactive and cross-generational project could seek memories that would provide a classroom resource to research the end of WW2 and how it is remembered.'*

In spite of the COVID crisis, Arbour Walk – one of the Cedar Care Homes – agreed to ask residents and relatives if they were willing to help, as the Hospitality Services Manager explained at the time: *'I must say that during these times, it is challenging to plan anything because the situation in the homes can change from one hour to another. I like your project and would be more than happy to go ahead, but we cannot say if the situation will be better soon.'*

The History teachers provided a series of questions, which resulted in responses from *'one or two ladies born in the 1920s who are happy to share their memories and then some residents who went through the war as children.'* These were incorporated into a source-based lesson on the Bristol Blitz, with students completing an empathy task for homework – creating a short story, diary entry or piece of art. *'The accounts from the care home are excellent. Thank you.'*

### Benefits for the Students

*'The employer provided interesting and novel sources to incorporate to an existing scheme of work. Many of the students were clearly moved by the fact that some of the sources we used in class came from local people with first-hand experience of the war. This served to really motivate some students to engage with the wider task of using sources to examine the effect of the Blitz on Bristol.'*

Evaluation revealed the project helped to develop Creativity and Teamwork skills.

