

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of the Gatsby Benchmarks National Pilot
Curriculum Provision	✓	Covering an important concept in History
Employer Partnerships	✓	An unusual and creative partnership
Reflective Young People	✓	Cultivating cross-generational communication skills
Informed Career Choices	✓	Promoting a positive image of the care profession

Cross-generational links bring the 1960s and 1940s to life for year 8 students

The History team at Kenton School, one of the largest in Newcastle, had an existing set of classroom resources to teach about 'Women in WW2, the 1960s and the present'. This scheme of work addressed the National Curriculum aim that students, *'... should know where the people and events they study fit within a chronological framework and identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.'*

An approach to a residential nursing home across the road from the school resulted in a 'Remembering' project to engage service users who are coping with dementia. New sets of Powerpoint slides about women in WW2 and the 1960s were used as teaching resources in the classroom and to create photo albums in the home, which would help to stimulate long-term memories about news stories, fashions, the home, films, music and working life.

Women were recruited for the activity with the help of posters put up around the home to attract the interest of residents and visiting family members. The school then recorded residents sharing their personal stories from the two past eras that were being studied, along with copies of some photographs. This material was used to help students develop materials for 'Memory Boxes' that were showcased in the classroom when a few residents were invited as guests to the school, where they talked with the students.

Benefits for the Students

- *'They helped by telling us about things we didn't know, first-hand – things they'd experienced'*
- *'It's really interesting – their views on history – how it actually happened. All we've done is hear about it from our History teacher. It's good to hear from someone who's experienced everything through the years'*

Benefits for the School

- *'Working with the employer helped to develop community links and understanding of different time periods from a first-hand perspective'*
- *'Students were able to develop self-management as they took the lead on the project and came up with ideas to put into the memory boxes. They developed thinking and problem-solving skills and working together ...'*
- *'It would be interesting to continue to develop our work with Kenton Manor ...'*

Benefits for the Employer

- Elderly people coping with dementia are encouraged to recall long-term memories. This project extended programmes already promoted by the home's activities manager
- Kenton Manor Residential & Care Home is part of a larger organisation. A story about the project was submitted for publication in the group magazine



Kenton Manor cares for elderly residents, many of whom are coping with dementia. A group of women were recruited who were willing to share their stories and photographs to bring History to life, helping year 8 students to learn about women in the 1940s and 1960s. Classroom resources included recordings of them telling their stories and students produced 'Memory Boxes' for use in the home. A small group of residents met with students at the school to answer questions and share memories.