

## Marsh Mail

Sixty-nine Year 9 and 10 students from Linton Village College spent the Remembrance weekend on the Battlefields trip in France and Belgium.

The trip gave students the opportunity to explore trench lines on the Western Front that had been preserved since the end of the First World War whilst guides talked them through how disease, infestation, and poor sanitation was rife.

At 11 o'clock on Armistice Day, students had an incredibly special opportunity to mark the 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War at a graveyard in the Somme Valley that was dedicated to men in the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division, many who died in the very first hours of the Battle of the Somme on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1916. Pupils visited a number of other memorials, including the memorial for unknown soldiers at Thiepval and the Newfoundland Memorial Park.

Some students were fortunate to be able to visit the sites of some their ancestors who gave their lives during the fighting on the Western Front in the First World War and whose graves we visited on the trip on personal pilgrimages. Lucy, in Year 9, visited the grave of one of her great great grandfather's brother who died in Ypres at the age of twenty seven.

Meanwhile, Thomas in Year 10 discovered that one of the tour guides is an expert on his ancestor who was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military honour in the British Army, for his gallantry and bravery in the First World War.

It was a very special and poignant extra-curricular event that staff and students gained a great deal from.