



Winner

EducationInvestor Awards 2015

Education partnership of the year

Equity and UCL Institute of Education

School tour operator **Equity Inspiring Learning** and **UCL Institute of Education (IOE)** are delighted to have won Education Partnership of the Year, having been recognised for their excellent delivery of the **First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme**.

This national centenary education initiative, funded by government, is designed to help teachers and students from every state funded school in England, including free schools and academies, to develop a deeper understanding of the Great War.

To date, over 2,275 students and 1,215 teachers from 1,140 eligible schools in England teaching Key Stages 3, 4 and/or 5 have travelled to the Western Front, with a target of 4,000 schools to have taken part by March 2019.

Two students and one teacher from every eligible school join a 4 day tour accompanied by Equity and IOE staff, professional guides and serving soldiers. The tour visits museums, battlefield sites, memorials and cemeteries including the Commonwealth War Grave sites of Tyne Cot Cemetery near Ypres, Belgium and Thiepval Memorial in The Somme, France. This is contrasted with a visit to the German Langemark Cemetery. Students also take part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium.



Caron Porritt, recruitment and publicity manager

Going out to the battlefields in France and Belgium and seeing the landscape and the history of the war makes it easier for students to visualise the scale of the war and the lives lost. This is reinforced through enquiry based learning at every site visited. The programme also combines pre-tour teacher development training and post-tour community projects to ensure an enduring legacy in the classroom and communities.

Equity Inspiring Learning CEO, John Bentley, said: "We are thrilled to win the prestigious Education

Partnership category. We know from feedback that the tours have provided an inspiring experience for both the teachers and students who have participated. Receiving this award recognises the dedication and commitment by the team united in providing this unique educational experience."

Professor Stuart Foster Executive Director, First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme, IOE said: "I'm delighted that UCL Institute of Education and Equity Inspiring Learning have been recognised and rewarded by EducationInvestor magazine. The team has worked hard to develop an innovative and engaging First World War education programme in conjunction with Equity, and this award reflects the success we have had in ensuring that the significance, impact and legacy of the First World War is more profoundly understood in schools and communities across the country."

With 2016 marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, the forthcoming spring and autumn tours will focus on specific Pals regiments from regions across the country who gave their lives for our freedom. Students will learn about the specific contribution made by their community while also considering the wider historical context of the battle. Eligible schools not yet enrolled to take part should register today to secure their free tour place and start creating their own legacy 100 years on. Visit www.centenarybattlefieldtours.org to enrol and to obtain free resources or email ww1@inspiring-learning.com