

## **INTRODUCTION**

The **Men Behind The Glass** project <https://menbehindtheglass.co.uk/> is a major restoration, education and community engagement initiative which commemorates the WW1 heritage of Campbell College in Belfast. The project, which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, focuses on uncovering the family lives and military service of 126 pupils and one member of staff who lost their lives in the war and whose photographs are embedded in the Edwardian wood panelling in the College's Central Hall. Alongside the preservation and digital restoration of these images, the project engaged local Primary Schools in a creative drama workshop programme called **Time Traveller** which used creative methods to engage young people in the stories of the young men, many of whom lived in their own localities over 100 years ago.

The **Time Traveller** workshop was delivered in nine primary schools in East Belfast to over five hundred children between the ages of eight and eleven. Each drama workshop aimed to provide a creative space for young people to take the men from 'behind the glass' and examine their lives and their role in WW1 more closely. Activities were designed to enable children to actively engage in and interact with history through their own imaginative exploration and expression. The workshop explored the lives of young men of the time 'from classmates to comrades' by focusing on the story of one man, Robert McConnell. Two actors-in-role performed a short script based on archival research which told the story of McConnell's school life and war journey. Pupils were then guided through a variety of whole class and small group drama and writing activities before presenting their work in a whole class performance.

## **OVERVIEW**

A script included within this toolkit will enable pupils to perform the story of Robert McConnell and a female teacher who worked at the school 100 years ago, Miss Margaret Boal. Other resources will support teachers in guiding pupils through a series of drama and writing tasks which will allow pupils to create their own dramatic presentations at the end of the workshop.