



Voices of the Great War

Good morning! What you are seeing here is a **UK-German Connection project** between **Phillip-Melanchthon Gymnasium from Grünheide, near Berlin** and **The Mount and Millthorpe Schools in York**. Our project is 'Voices of the Great War' and we are presenting different voices from the 1914-1919 period. There are:

- Fighting voices
- Peaceful voices
- Silenced voices
- Reflective voices

The voices we have chosen as part of these themes come from both Britain and Germany.

The students have researched the lives of the different characters. We all met as a group for the first time on Friday. Yesterday we had a busy day working on presenting the voices as staged monologues and duologues. Here we are in the centre of York today to share our project. Our work is not meant to be perfectly rehearsed theatre – sadly we are only together for these few days. What you see are students who have worked on this project in their free time because they want to make connections between the UK and Germany and because they love history.

Our partnership has been in existence since 2009. Every year we meet in York or Berlin and our projects explore big themes. For example, we have thought about national identity and asked 'Why Europe?' Every project is about young people from our two countries working and having fun together. We are fortunate to have once again been supported by UK-German Connection. This is a bilateral government initiative for school and youth links. It was established in 2005 and is funded and governed by the UK and German governments, British Council and the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst.

Thank you for being our audience this morning!