

International Bomber Command Centre Teacher Information

We look forward to welcoming you to the International Bomber Command Centre. This booklet has a little more information, to help you make the most of your visit, please do not hesitate to contact the learning team if you have any further questions or queries.



The International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) has been created to provide a world-class facility to serve as a point for recognition, remembrance and reconciliation for Bomber Command.

Your Visit

Visits take place **Tuesday-Friday** between **10am-2pm** with a 45-to-50-minute break for lunch. Fully facilitated visits include a tour of the Exhibition, Spire and Walls of Names, as well as a workshop with the Learning Officer. The Learning Officers will provide you with a timetable for your visit. **A self-guided visit includes access to The Spire and Exhibition, timings to be discussed with the Learning Officer.**

Costing

Fully facilitated visits are priced at **£7.50** per pupil and self-guided visits are priced at **£4.00** a head with all accompanying adults free of charge for school groups.

There is a cap of **60 pupils per day** for facilitated visits and 30 for self-guided visits. We will invoice you for payment after your visit.

We can also provide bespoke visits, please contact the Learning Officer for more information.

Practical Information

There is space inside the IBCC to use as a lunchroom and weather permitting, your group is also welcome to eat outside and play in the grounds. We kindly request that yoghurts are not consumed in the lunchroom.

Parts of the visit will take place outside at The Spire and Walls of Names so please ensure your group are dressed appropriately. We advise sensible shoes, as well as sun hats and sun cream in summer and warm clothing in winter.

Transport

All groups will be met by the Learning Officer, please report to reception on arrival. If you think you might be running late on the day, please contact the IBCC on **01522 514755**.

Coaches can drop off students directly outside the IBCC and park in the car park during the visit.

There is a possibility for some funding towards transport costs available through Lincolnshire County Council's Aviation Learning team. Please see their website, www.investigatethelearning.com for more information

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Before your visit

You are welcome to come for a free visit before you bring your school. To arrange this please contact learning@internationalbcc.co.uk

The centre is fully accessible for wheelchair users. The learning team is available to discuss all access, and SEN needs to make your visit smoothly as possible. We do have a visual story PPT that can be sent out on request to help to prepare children for their visit.



During the visit

You are welcome to take photos in all areas of the IBCC during your visit, however, we do ask that the short films and big-screen footage are not filmed due to copyright issues. We do always appreciate receiving your school visit photos to share on our website.



Please be aware our centre is a relatively small space and open to the public, we kindly ask that your students are always supervised and do not run or shout when they are anywhere onsite.

Your school can visit the shop, let the learning team know in advance so we can schedule this into your visit.

Post visit

We always love hearing about your experience here so please do complete a feedback form provided by our team or email learning@internationalbcc.co.uk to let us know your thoughts!

Pre-Visit Activities

Before you bring your class to the IBCC, you may want to prepare your pupils using some of these activities/discussion ideas. More information about Bomber Command in WW2 can be found on our website and on our IBCC fact sheet.

Introduction:

- What is a memorial?
- Why are we visiting the IBCC?
- What are we going to see at the IBCC and how can we find out?
- How should we behave in a Memorial site?

Key Vocabulary that might be useful for your visit:

Royal Air Force - Blitz - Second World War - Air raid - Bomber Command - Aircraft - Remembrance - Reconciliation - Recognition - Duty - Courage - Bravery - Innocence - Fear - Morale - Volunteers - Nations - Mascots

Class Activity- Lancaster Crew

Bomber Command was unique in allowing their men to pick their own crews. For a Lancaster Bomber, a 7-Man crew was needed with each man having their own special role (descriptions of the roles can be found on the IBCC fact sheet).

Each member of the crew wore a badge on their uniform which highlighted their role within the crew: these badges were called Brevets. Ask the class to get into groups of seven; in groups allow them to assign roles and design their own team brevets which they can make into badges to wear.



You could photocopy our Brevet Templates for your class to cut out and colour or ask them to design their own from scratch. These can then be glued onto card and made into badges, attached with a safety pin and a bit of tape on the back of the card.

Class Activity- Investigative Journalists

Explain to the class that they have been commissioned to write an article about Bomber Command during the Second World War for a local magazine. They can begin researching in the classroom and continue it during their visit to the centre. See writing prompts below.

- What was Bomber Command and what was their role during the Second World War?
- How many people served in Bomber Command and what were the different roles for women and men?
- Who was in charge of Bomber Command?
- Why did people from different countries serve in Bomber Command?
- Why was the reputation of Bomber Command different after the War?

Post-Visit Activities

Class Activity – Letters Home

Bomber Boys will have had the opportunity to write and send letters home. How do you think the content of these letters would have compared according to the nationality of the boys themselves?

- Use your own imagination to write a letter back to your family in a different country.
- Using current regional and national newspapers, cut and paste words and phrases to make possible newspaper headlines to describe Bomber Command during WW2.
- Find out what you can about the Avro Lancaster Bomber. Why do you think The Spire reflects the wingspan of the bomber?
- Design a poster that highlights the magnificence of The Spire and the Avro Lancaster Bomber.

Class Activity – Home Front

- Have your whole class work together to create a wartime newspaper- articles about influx of airmen to Lincolnshire, evacuees, rationing, etc.
- Students could act out a meeting between country children and evacuees (townies), with other roles for local adults such as host-parent, farmer and so on. Use the situation to explore children's reactions. What do the country children think of the new arrivals - and vice versa?
- Arrange a cookery class in school where students can make some genuine wartime food. [Download our carrot biscuits recipe!](#)

Remembrance

The IBCC is the **only place in the world** where all these losses are commemorated. What message do you think this gives to families and friends associated with Bomber Command and how does it make them feel?

- Write a short poem about this.

There are almost 58,000 men and women named on this monument. They were of various ranks but only names are listed. Why do you think this is the case?

Explore other lists of names on memorials and compare these to the ones at the IBCC. Are there any names that stand out to you? Why? The CWGC website is a good starting point for this:

<https://www.cwgc.org/>

- You could design your own war memorial to reflect your thoughts on remembrance and its relevance today. Who will you commemorate and where will your memorial be located, and why?



What do you think of the poppy as symbol of remembrance? If you could design your own symbol of remembrance, what would you choose and why.