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## **Students Unearth the Rich Heritage of Castries**

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As part of ongoing efforts by the Saint Lucia National Trust to educate young people on the history of Saint Lucia, a heritage tour of the city of Castries was organized for secondary school students within the Castries basin. With Saint Lucia's foremost historian, Dr. Gregor Williams serving as the guide, students were taken on a historical journey through the



**Students learn of the history of Meadows Battery**

city of Castries during which changes in its physical landscape over the years were highlighted. Dr. Williams shared vivid memories of his personal experiences growing up in Castries and of historic events like the 1948 Castries fire and the bombing in Castries Harbour during World War 2.



**Students & Teachers enter the National Archives**

Following the Castries city tour, the group proceeded to the Married Women's Quarters and Meadows Battery at Vigie. Whilst there, students learnt of the many battles fought between the British and French, and of the pivotal role Saint Lucia played during the French Revolution from 1789 to 1798. Dr. Williams explained that although there were 14 exchanges between the British and French, only 8 major battles were fought between the two. Saint Lucia, he noted, holds the distinction of being the island most fought over by the British and French.



The group then visited the Saint Lucia National Archives where an exhibition was being held in commemoration of Saint Lucia's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence. This presented an opportunity for students to view some old photos of Castries. Thereafter, students toured Walcott's Place and viewed the film, 'Castries Fire Commemoration: Stories from the Ashes'.

Saint Lucia National Trust wishes to thank Foster & Ince for providing transportation for this important event and the participating schools: Leon Hess Comprehensive Secondary, Bocage Secondary and the St. Joseph's Convent Secondary.



“The Trust will continue to engage more schools across the island in tours of our heritage sites. This way our students would acquire a deeper appreciation for our heritage, the stories of the past that has influenced our way life and lessons to be learned in order to progress meaningfully,” said Mrs. Karetta Crooks Charles, SLNT's Communications and Advocacy Officer. She also encouraged participants to creatively share

the knowledge gleaned from Dr. Williams with their peers and relatives.

The activity, held on March 20, 2019, was initially planned to commemorate World Heritage Day 2018 which was observed under the theme ‘Heritage for Generations’, but was postponed due to conflicting school activities.