



HeadLines

In this week's assemblies, the theme was remembrance. Here are some extracts of my presentation to mark Remembrance Day 2007:

Remembrance Assembly 2007

My grandfather was a career soldier. He fought in the First World War and the Second World War. That means he didn't volunteer for the wars, he was already a soldier – a Major in the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was stationed all over the place: Alnwick, Folkestone and many places in between – even Calais at one point. One of his brothers and one of his brothers in law had been killed in World War 1. He had survived unscathed and believed that he had lived through the war to end all wars but in 1939, he went to war again. By this time he was much older and not far off from retiring from the army. If he had been a civilian and volunteered, they would have said he was too old and too unfit. He had a wife and two sons aged 27 and 34. He had two grandchildren. But in 1940 he found himself – at a time when it could be said that Britain was struggling in the war – on an ill-fated mission to France. It was a mission which ended almost before it began: he and hundreds of other British soldiers were captured and marched to prisoner of war camps in Germany. Many soldiers, younger than him, fitter than him, many about the same age as some of you here today, died along the route, starved, freezing cold and wet or were shot whilst escaping. My grandfather reached Oflag XII, the camp where he would spend the next five years. He shared a wooden hut much like a large garden shed with thirty or forty other men. There were no home comforts at all for the first year and no contact with home. Almost exactly a year after capture, Red Cross parcels began arriving and my Grandmother received her first postcard from him, 'please send pencils and paints' (he was a keen water colourist). The rest was crossed out. Perhaps he identified where he was. Who knows? He had sent postcards during World War 1 when he was in France. But until 1941 there were no home comforts for him, no treats, no proper food, no letters and no contact.

In 1944 my grandmother was sitting in a cinema in Peterborough where my Great Aunt Edith was a teacher and my great grandfather was a recently retired newspaper editor. She was called to the foyer to speak to a policeman. She feared the worst. But she learnt that my grandfather had been released and was on his way home. He had missed the birth of a grandchild and the marriage of his youngest son. He did not know that my uncle, a fire fighter in Hastings, had been injured or that my father had spent most of his war in an air sea rescue launch in West Africa.

He had gone to war a robust, humorous and cheery man and returned a gaunt, moody, taciturn man who would not speak about the war. What we know about his experiences has been pieced together from other peoples' accounts.

He died in 1958 – and I hardly knew him. I know his paintings and I know lots about his life. I know more now thanks to local author Adrian Gilbert's book 'PoW' and I remember my grandfather as I could not have remembered him otherwise. My sister who was born the day before he died feels that she knows him. We like the fact that we can go to Alnwick Castle, famous for Harry Potter and see his photo and war records.

There are so many stories – and we stand on the brink of something momentous. To forget or to remember. I want us – in this school - to remember. Not to glorify war. Not to celebrate in the way of some of the wars. Not necessarily to be anti-war. I want us to stand in this hall today – in a few minutes – and remember the students of the school who died in World War 2.

I have fifty or so of my grandfather's watercolours at home. Most of them picture a scene through a window with bars or a scene looking back to the hut where he spent five long years. The same scene is green and sunny or grey and rainy or white and snow covered. Days pass, time passes, part of a life is taken away. But in many ways my grandfather was lucky – he survived two world wars and lived to see his grandchildren. I was able to know him for a few years.

Here are the names on our Roll of Honour which you will find above the entrance to PA1:

Kenneth Selden	Robert High	Lewis Stubbington
Robert Duke	Jack Colyer	Ivor Slade
Henry Bagshaw	Constantine McGarry	William Newman
Geoffrey Saunders		

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

'Poirot' comes to HHS

Exciting news for this week is that scenes from an episode of the popular series 'Poirot' are to be filmed at the school later this month. 'Cat Among the Pigeons' is set in a girls' school in the 1930s, so while up to 30 of our students will be appearing in the episode, they will all be girls. Sorry, lads.

Having filming happening on site does cause some disruption, it must be admitted, but since the set the production company requires is the Old Gym, this will be kept to a minimum. Furthermore, the benefit in terms of the students' experience of work-related learning is considerable. As well as seeing how a film set functions, students are able to learn about the number of different jobs this industry offers and understand the time and expertise required to produce just a few minutes of film. Besides, all the staff – and some of the students – are looking forward to seeing David Suchet wandering around our school!

More news once the cameras begin to roll.

Ms N Darby

House Art

Thank you to everyone who contributed to House Art this week. All of the work looked fantastic in the exhibition! Students from each House designed posters to promote their House Drama play based on one of the Harry Potter books. After long deliberation we have awarded points to the following Houses:

- 3rd place Chalfont
- 2nd place Ashridge
- 1st place Pendley

Well done to all of you! Watch this space for more news on the next House Art event...

Miss L Rayner, Art Department

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD SCHOOL AND MGEZWA SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

During half term Mrs Botha, Miss Dayton, Mrs Bailey and Mr Dowling travelled to Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, to work with the staff and pupils of Mgezwa School. The aims and objectives of the visit were to produce a joint CD of music and singing where pupils from both schools will be recorded. The CD will be sold at a later date and the funds raised will support the future development of the Partnership. A Partnership Agreement was signed which states that "It is our aim to enable students, staff and communities of the two schools to learn more about the society, culture and way of life of their partner school. We aim to promote understanding of the interdependence of cultures in our global village and to develop diversity of human experience".

We were fortunate to experience at first hand some of the culture in the area of Performing Arts and we will be sharing this with the students in assemblies next week. As well as working with the choir, we also observed and shared Mathematics, Drama and Dance classes. A sample of one of the Mgezwa School's learner's poetry, written by himself, is copied on the next column. Armstrong performed this very dramatically and although the message was for Africans, I think there could also be a message there for us too.

Mrs M Botha

"The Home of Love and Peace

South Africa, Suid Africa, Africa Dzonga, Africa Dzibhembe, Iningiziim Africa, Umzantsi Africa.

The country of great wealth. The country of peace. The country of minerals. The country of the green pastures. The country that has big rivers named because of the blood of the black Africans.

Who fought for freedom during apartheid regime, long way to freedom, long way to liberty. Today we live in a democracy that our heroes fought for, but there's a dirty dot which divides us into two. It changes the wonderful situation.

Our brothers and sisters are dying day by day. Our mothers and fathers are dying like flies, leaving orphans behind. Our leaders are full of grudge in their minds and grievance, because of the time that we are coming from. Because of the days that we are coming from.

Work hard Africans, work hard. Don't expect easy come because easy come, easy goes. Expect the better fruits of your toil."

That will make us raise our nation and it will bring back our dignity."

Written by Armstrong Manuku Cele, Mgezwa Junior/Secondary School, 04.10.07



Mrs Bailey and the Choir

National Enterprise Week—12th-16th November

Although our Work Related Learning/Enterprise Week is always at the end of July for the whole school, students may well have a focus across the curriculum in Enterprise Capabilities and Financial and Business Understanding next week. Skills such as using initiative, teamwork, analysing and evaluation are always being used but there will be a stronger focus on this during this week.

This is an extract from the Wenta Business Centre's newsletter: "As part of our annual support for Hemel Hempstead School's Enterprise week, Wenta ran the Beacon Business Challenge on 17th and 19th July this year. The School organises an annual Enterprise Week in July which provides opportunities for the whole school to have a taste of enterprise. The two days were attended by over seventy Sixth Form students. They all got into the spirit of the occasion with energy and enthusiasm!"

Mrs M Botha, WRL Co-ordinator

Young Writers' Mini Saga Competition

Recently a number of students submitted work for the Young Writers' Mini Saga creative writing competition. The competition involved writing a story in fifty words or less on any theme that inspired them. I am delighted that the following students have had their work selected for publication. Well done!

James Barnett	9N
Charlotte Waugh	9A
Tessa Mann	9A
Fay Breed	9N
Cale Tilford	8C
Alex Burgess	8C

Mrs J Wickett, English Department

Return of GCSE Coursework

All students from last year's Food Technology, Child Development and Textile groups are welcome to collect their coursework portfolios from M15 at lunch-times until the end of November. In early December all work not collected will be sent for recycling. Thank you.

Mrs A Walker

Pizza and Rolls

On Tuesday 30th October Mr Mansbridge from Mansbridge Bakeries in Boxmoor came into the Year 10 Catering Group. We all made a pizza and eight rolls. We first made the dough for our rolls and while they were rising we made the pizza. Thank you to Mr Mansbridge for bringing everything for us. We had a great time cooking with you.

James Bryson 10P and all the Catering Group

Library Notice

A huge thank you to Year 8 parents who bought over £300 worth of books for the Library at last week's Parents' Evening. Your generosity is very much appreciated and the students will benefit greatly from your contribution.

There will be a Scholastic Book Fair in the Library from 20th November for one week. More details will follow shortly.

Mrs E Krajewski, Librarian

Headlice

Although headlice are not a health hazard they can make children feel uncomfortable and it is best to get rid of them as soon as possible. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat any lice or eggs as soon as possible.

If you would like information on treatment please call me or speak to your family doctor or pharmacist.

Mrs L Bower, Matron

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter No. 57 Year 12/13 Open rehearsals at the LSO

Letter No. 60 Year 10 COPE Trip

Gold Letters are also available via our website—
www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

October 2007 Maths Stars of the Month

Year 7: Grace Masters 7A, Charlotte Lancey 7C, Tim Wright, Ellen Milligan 7F, Matthew Bateman, Emma D'Amery 7L, Jessica Delaney 7N, Conaugh Parker 7P.

Year 8: Tasmin Mason, Taznin Islam 8A, Carina Archer 8C, Katy Ferguson, Olivia Scott 8L, Elissa Benedetti-Smith 8N.

Year 9: Lauren Sumner 9C, Sophie Wilkinson, Kelly-Ann Walker, Sharmin Sultana 9F, James Barnett 9N, Thomas Howe 9P.

Year 10: Akeel Hussain, Stacey Peaks 10A, Arran Sparrow, Max Dwight 10L, Sidonie Reid 10N, Joanna Lovell 10P, Gemma Edney-Groves 10P.

Year 11: Joe Brown 11A, Arfana Saddique, Eve Clancy, Jamie Robinson 11L, Katie Woodham, Michael McLaughlin 11N, Rebecca Crawley 11P.

Mathematics Puzzle of the Month

This month's puzzle winners are: Conaugh Parker 7P and Sam McGregor 11F. Well done!

As part of the new House Cup system, students who enter the Mathematics Puzzle of the Month and get the correct answer will be winning points for their House. If your House is going to win the House Cup, as many of you as possible need to get involved.

Miss C Bandle, Math Department

SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Jumble Sale: Saturday 17th November at 10 am

Please contact Mrs Stallworthy if you have any jumble to donate. We would also appreciate any help either on Friday 16th after school or selling on the day.

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th November at 7 pm in the Library, all welcome.

Quiz Night: This was a great night. Thank you to Mr Chappelow and his team of judges for a fantastic evening.

Judith Stallworthy, Chair HHSA (01442 393266 or mobile 07749 727350), Email: s.stallworthy@sky.com

Headteacher's Commendations

For excellent work in Maths: Michaela James 11C.

For excellent work in Music: Elizabeth Ballard 9A, Sophie Clayson 9L, Dominique Collinge 9P, Jade Dempsey 9C, Louise Hayes 9N, Anna Maduro 9L, Eloise Phillips 9F, James Storkey-Jewiarz 9A, Robyn Theobald 9N.

For helping with Gifted and Talented Music Day:

Catherine Smith 9C, Lamorna Hooker 8P, Thomas Durrant 9F, Josie Mills 9N.

For obtaining the Dean's Chorister Award: Fay Breed 9N, Imogen Hudson 9N, Priya Odedra 9F.

For excellent work in Art: Jodie Hardcastle 7C

Sport



FIXTURES

Monday 12th November

U16 Rugby v Rickmansworth (A)

Tuesday 13th November

Years 9 and 10 Netball v Cavendish (H)

U18 Basketball v Westfield (A)

Wednesday 14th November

U12 ESFA v Astley Cooper (A)

U14 Basketball v SCC (H)

Thursday 15th November

U16 Basketball v Westfield (A)

Saturday 17th November

Football v Longdean tbc.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Gold Week

Mon 12th Nov	Year 9 visit by ADAD Theatre Group
Tues 13th Nov	Sixth Form Recital Evening, Heath Barn
Thurs 15th Nov	Year 11 Parents' Consultation Year 12 General Studies Day
Sat 17th Nov	HHSA Jumble Sale
Blue Week	
Mon 19th Nov	Year 7 Science Trip
Tues 20th—Mon 26th	Scholastic Book Fair
Weds 21st Nov	Year 11 Parents Meeting re: Prom, Sixth Form Study Centre, 6.30pm
Thurs 22nd	Year 9 Trip to Globe/Tate
Fri 23rd Nov	Children in Need XFactor

Additional INSET/holiday day 2008

All schools in England and Wales have been instructed to take an additional training day this year because of the new curriculum requirements. For this school and others in Dacorum, the day will be Tuesday 8th April 2008 which follows on from the Easter holiday and the training day on Monday 7th April.

So, after Easter, students return to school on Wednesday 9th April.

Headteacher's Congratulations

Headteacher's congratulations this week to

- Mrs Stallworthy, Mr Chappelow and the HHSA for an excellent Quiz Night.
- Mr Mitchell, Heads of House, House Captains and participants for a brilliant House Drama event of real quality.
- Ms Akeroyd for organising the Roman Legion visit for Year 7.
- Miss Black and the Year 7 Netball team for a great win in the District Cup.
- Mr Norwood for becoming Subject Adviser for RE for the Eastern Region.

How fortunate we are to have so many committed staff and students. Well done, everyone.

Miss S J Samwell

RESULTS

Netball

Year 9 v Kings Langley won 6-3, v Adeyfield won 7-2, v Ashlyns won 7-0. Semi-final v JFK drew 4-4, lost 5-4 after extra time.

Congratulations to the Year 9 Netball squad who performed brilliantly in the District Mini league finals on Thursday night. Having beaten everyone in their pool, they made a fantastic comeback from 3-0 down against JFK to finish 4-4 at the end of time. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be and they lost 5-4 in extra time. Well played girls!

Squad: Rebecca Armorgie, Sarah Kinley (Captain), Rebecca Tyne, Josie Mills, Melissa Hardy, Molly Blake, Philippa Carr, Bridget Philpott, Catherine Smith.

Football

Year 8 v Cheshunt lost 4-3.

Year 7 District Winners

The Year 7 Netball team played in the District competition on Tuesday. They were all fantastic and a real credit to the school. The girls played extremely well as a team and have spent a lot of time practising their skills during the run up to the competition. The team won all their games in the first stages of the competition, beating Bridgewater 6-1, Astley Cooper 12-0 and Kings Langley 6-5. The semi-final was against Longdean in which the girls really dug in and produced a 4-0 win. We faced Kings Langley in the final again and convincingly won 10-4. Thanks must go to the parents who were there to support us again and take the girls to the fixtures. Well done!

Team:

Francesca Quinn, Charlie Bartlett ©, Molly Banham, Zoe Littlechild, Beth Bellis, Kathryn Tyne, Jodie Hardcastle, Tara Keith.

Miss N Black

Congratulations to Charlie Bartlett 7A, who played hockey for Hertfordshire last weekend against Essex. Herts beat Essex with a little help from Charlie. Well done Charlie!

Sports Tour Quiz

This is tonight in the School Hall. Doors open at 7pm and the quiz starts at 7.30pm.

Miss E Bevan, Learning Leader: PE



School answerphone for sickness or absence

Please will all parents contact us **daily** if your child is sick, going to be in late due to a medical appointment, or is absent for any other reason. Please call our school answerphone on **01442 390103 by 9am if possible**