



Poppy Warrior by Katie M (Year 9)

But even in the blood soaked fields,
One bloom you may see,
For even as the rest look away and run,
The crimson poppy stands proud.
Blood red on red blood,
Sprinkled with black and green.

A loving shade of brotherhood and bond,
Marking the places where comrades fell,
Mowed down by machines and artillery.
Blood red on red blood,
Sprinkled with black and green.

Proud stands the poppy warrior,
Armoured Vermilion red leather,
Holding aloft her Thistle sword.
Blood red on red blood,
Sprinkled with black and green.

She walks through the fields,
After each battle,
Giving hope to those alive,
Remembering those gone.
Blood red on red blood,
Sprinkled with black and green.

She springs forward in violent colour,
From the mud reddened by blood,
For nothing daunts the poppy warrior.
Blood red and red blood
Sprinkled with black and green.

Now she has no more battlefields to see,
Instead she springs up and gives her flower,
For nothing daunts the poppy warrior.
Blood red and red blood
Sprinkled with black and green.

Now she has no more battlefields to see,
Instead she springs up and gives her flower,
To all those who wish to remember.
Blood red on Greystone,
Sprinkled with black and green.



Marking Remembrance Day at The Gregg

This year, The Gregg will be marking Remembrance Day in a number of different ways.

Mr Lerego will be doing a whole school assembly, and student leaders will be seeking donations for poppies over the remembrance period, in order to support the British Legion poppy appeal.

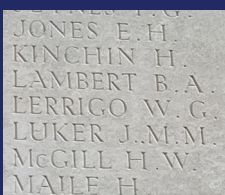
Mrs Crowther and senior student leaders will also be laying a wreath at the West End cenotaph on Sunday to recognise local servicemen who lost their lives in the two world wars.



During half term the History Department ran a trip to Belgium and France (more about that in the next article) where students had the opportunity to visit a number of battlefields and places of memorial.

To recognise all of the nations who lost soldiers or non-combatant service personnel, Gregg students laid wreaths at the Menin Gate for allied war casualties, and also at the German cemetery in Langemark, Belgium, to pay respects to the German soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

An important part of the trip was to acknowledge the many thousands who fell but remain nameless today.



Students visited war cemeteries with headstones marking an 'Unknown Soldier', but some members of the trip party also found the memorials of missing

servicemen from their own families, including Angus, Tom and myself.

Mr Lerego

Battlefields Tour



At 4:30am on Thursday 17th October, when most of us are usually asleep in bed, 38 bleary eyed students and four staff headed off on the Battlefields Trip.



It was a packed programme visiting sites in the Ypres area of Belgium and the Somme region in France, to support students understanding of WW1 and the background to Remembrance Day commemorations which take place at this time of year.



On the first day we visited the Bayernwald German Trench system just outside of the town of Ypres to reflect on trench warfare and the construction of German trenches compared to British ones.



Students had the opportunity to investigate the site as well as listen to detailed information from our tour guide Tim. The next stop was the chocolate shop in Ypres and then dinner, before we headed as a group to the Menin Gate. Two of our students – Namrita (Year 10) and Isaac (Year 9) had the privilege of participating in the wreath laying ceremony at the Menin Gate following the playing of the Last Post by the retired members of the local fire brigade.



It was a very poignant ceremony which has taken place every evening at 8pm since 1927 in Ypres and during the German occupation from 1940 took place at Brooklands in Surrey.



Day two saw us visiting several cemeteries including Essex Farm where Amelie read out John McCrae's poem 'In Flanders Fields' who wrote this poem while serving as a doctor at the Advanced Dressing Station on this site.

Next we visited Langemarck which is a German cemetery and enabled students to observe the differences with a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery. We were able to



wander around to see how German soldiers are remembered here and we undertook our own short ceremony - Euan and James in Year 9 laid our wreath which contained both English and German messages.



We then headed down to the Somme area and visited Newfoundland Park which is a Canadian memorial, as well as Thiepval, a Commonwealth War Graves memorial to the missing. Several students were able to identify relatives who served in the Somme and unfortunately lost their lives during the fighting.



Day three included visits to the Sir John Monash Centre which highlighted the involvement of the Australian forces during WW1 and proved to be a very positive interactive experience.



Lochnagar crater made a great impression on us illustrating the power of the shells exploded during the Battle of the Somme.

Day four saw us visiting Arras and the Welling Quarry museum, which allowed students to go underground and view the tunnels dug by New Zealand miners, while the interactive nature of the tour allowed us to see how these tunnels were used in 1917.



Vimy Ridge and the Ring of Remembrance provided an opportunity to view how other nations commemorate the First World War and we finished our trip with a small ceremony of poems and the Last Post.



The tour guide words 'We will now head home, in contrast to many of those who fought', reminded us all of the importance of reflection at this time of year.

Mrs Hillyear

Thank you to our staff Mrs Hillyear, Mr Lerego, Mrs Gibbs and Mrs Lay who accompanied our students on this trip.

FROGS News

Not long now until the The Gregg School and FROGS Christmas Fayre on Saturday 30th November 11am - 3pm.

It is FREE entry and parking!

In addition to student run stalls we also have a lot of exciting small businesses to help start your Christmas shopping including:

Fudge, stocking fillers, wooden Christmas decorations, bath products and skin care, bags, paintings, prints, cards, ladies clothing, jewellery, scarves, ceramics, homemade honey candles, home accessories The Gregg School honey and much, much more!

Refreshments will be available including mince pies and mulled wine!

We look forward to seeing you there!



Open Mornings

Do you have a younger child about to start primary school or a Year 6 looking for a senior school? Or know someone who does?



Why not come along to one of our Open Mornings in November and see the schools in action?

The Gregg Prep Open Morning is being held on Wednesday 13th November and The Gregg School Open Morning is on Tuesday 19th November - both run from 9:30-11:30am.

Please book your place via the links:

The Gregg Prep Open Morning, 13th November
The Gregg School Open Morning, 19th November

Duolingo

Well done to Year 9 student Pippa H who is at top place in our Duolingo Club League Table!



Student News

Flipping Around

Congratulations to Year 9 student Lilly P who travelled to Disneyland Paris with her gymnastics club 'Eclipse Gymnastics' to compete in the 'Take us 2 the Magic' competition and the Disney parade. Lilly had auditioned earlier in the year and was only notified in early October that her club had got into the parade.



For the competition she competed in a number of categories: solo, pair, small group and two whole group routines plus a Halloween routine.

Her solo, pair and Halloween routines sadly did not place in this competition but three of her other routines did:

Our Descendants (3rd)
Greatest Showman (2nd)
Hairspray (3rd)

Lilly was thrilled to meet the Disney choreographers as well as the Disney cast when she was part of the Disney parade.



Lilly has also travelled to South Staffordshire to compete in the 'Normal Acro Winter Championships' in the Grade 3 category and came first in the Normal Acro competition:

Well done Lilly!

Yellow Card!

Congratulations to another Year 9 student Euan H who attended a Hampshire FA referee course at Front Lawn, Havant last week and is now a verified Youth Referee.



Last weekend Euan officiated four matches at Ganger Farm, Romsey for the Eastleigh District Mini Soccer League.

His mentor was very positive about how he conducted himself with both the players, managers and parents noting that he has great communication skills, taking time to explain to the players the reason behind his decisions.

He even awarded two penalties and a yellow card during the four matches!

Euan is looking forward to more games this weekend and has already offered his services to Mr Bayford if he is in need of a referee for the his decisions and being well placed on the pitch at all times.

Odd Socks Day



We will be supporting the annual Anti-Bullying Alliance Odd Socks Day on 12th November.

Odd Socks Day helps raise awareness of bullying and it is now part of our Respect Programme.

Students can join in by wearing odd socks to school for the day...but it is not just for schools, adults are also encouraged to wear odd socks to work too!

In 2023, over 5 million children, thousands of parents, hundreds of workplaces and lots of celebrities and influencers got involved.

In previous years, Ant and Dec, Emma Willis, Brian May, Craig David, Sir Mo Farah and Anne-Marie have donned their odd socks!

It is a wonderful united way to highlight the need for inclusivity and to help encourage the importance of the issue of bullying.

Sports News

Senior Rugby

Our Year 11 rugby boys played their first game today losing 27-19 against The Trafalgar School (a formidable opponent having won the county cup last year).

The team played really well and despite being three tries down within 10 minutes they did incredibly well to get back into the game.



Man of the match was Zhane M as selected by his team mates, honourable mentions go to Jack G for captaining us, Rhett W-M and Oli G for their efforts and skill.

Rugby Club is Monday after school for Years 7/8/9 and senior rugby will be Wednesday lunchtimes.

Mr Bayford

& Juliet Show

A number of students went to see '& Juliet' at The Mayflower yesterday with Mrs Carrier and I (yes, science teachers love theatre too!).

We have one word... AMAZING!

With a fun, pop soundtrack including some Backstreet Boys and Britney, cheeky characters and incredible vocals from Juliet herself, I declare this show to be in my TOP 5 EVER.



It was so lovely to share this great night with the students, who joined in with the standing ovation and behaved impeccably throughout. Catch this show if you can, you won't be disappointed!

Mrs Azor

Dates to Look Out For

Saturday 9th November - St Ives trip returns

Monday 11th - Tuesday 12th November - Year 10
Parent Consultation Evening

Tuesday 12th November - Odd Socks Day

Friday 15th November - Children in Need Day

Wednesday 13th November - The Gregg Prep Open
Morning 9:30 - 11:30pm

Tuesday 19th November - The Gregg School Open
Morning 9:30-11:30am

Monday 25th November - Tuesday 3rd December -
Year 11 Mock Exams

Saturday 30th November - FROGS Christmas Fayre
11am - 3pm