



### **Armistice Day – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Armistice Day, no less important for being 101 years since the armistice was signed as last year being the centenary year. Our students and staff once again showed our compassion, reflection, respect and an unwavering gratitude at the sacrifices made each and every day from our service men and women.**

**What is now a St Clement's tradition, we came out to our tree and memorial garden, still beautifully and poignantly presenting our poppies, to reflect and share this moment of silence. The weather being wet, grey and bitter all morning simply cleared up as we came outside. It was very chilly, but in perspective, no real hardship at all.**



This year, we gave year 7 a special lesson before taking them outside to our memorial. We gave them a glimpse into the importance of this day, as well as the massive sacrifice that our soldiers knowingly undertook in the line of duty. Year 7 showed great maturity in their questioning, and answering as well as a real understanding. One of the most poignant parts of their lesson was seeing the many names from our villages going up on the board, many of which they recognised. This brought home to our youngest students that although 101 years ago, WWI had a massive impact on our villages. The students tried to imagine coming to school each morning and not seeing lots of men and young men dropping off their children or siblings. They tried to imagine playing on the rec, going to the shops and not seeing men, who went off to war. We asked the students to try and imagine that the seats they were sitting in were once occupied by other 11 year olds who in 3-4 years time would have to make the most difficult choice of their lives when war came.



We also reflected on the other wars and conflicts since WWI where the students were able to offer many stories from their relatives, as well as the artefacts they have seen at home. It seems there is as much a pride today as there ever was among our families and once again reiterated just why remembrance day is so important. *Left: Our flag pole proudly flying the union flag as our service took place.*

It was also wonderful once again to see our cadet students from the various branches perform their duties so splendidly and proudly. They wore their uniforms perfectly and dispensed with their duties so wonderfully, I am in no doubt that their colleagues living and gone would have been as proud of them as we staff were to watch them, as well as their younger peers being inspired by them. Each of these wonderful students then laid a poppy as well as a selection of year 7 students also laying a poppy and reflecting for a moment. Well done and thank you all for your part in our remembrance service.

As 11am approached, the rest of the school reflected during the two minutes silence in class, impeccably and respectfully observed once again. To all of our students, thank you! You do us proud every day and this was no exception. A special thanks to Mr Reynolds again who played The Last Post ensuring our service ended appropriately and powerfully.



**“We Will Remember Them”**

Mr Modica





**A special thank you to our Head boy and Head Girl, Charlie and Lizzie, and many other members of our school community who exquisitely represented our school and village on Remembrance Sunday at the church services.**

