

12 November 2020

Dear Parents,

At 11.00am yesterday morning the School came to a standstill to remember those courageous men and women who lost their lives in the conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries. The Remembrance Service is an incredibly important event, not only in the school calendar, but the national calendar. It was a shame we could not run our usual event which in more normal times brings around 2,000 pupils, staff and friends of RGS together to reflect during this important occasion.

The smaller, shorter service was still very special; the way the, albeit considerably reduced number of, pupils conducted themselves in the cold, still morning was, as ever, exemplary. Here is the [link](#) to the recording.

My assembly yesterday was linked to the Remembrance Service and focussed on the importance of courage, an attribute more important than ever during this period. Below is a brief extract:

There are times in your life when you will be called upon to demonstrate bravery and courage. It is no easy thing. Bravery and courage are not always demonstrated through physicality but through decision making, emotional intelligence, care and kindness. Is it more courageous to tackle the biggest rugby player or to visit a very unwell relative or to be courageous enough to ask a friend for help? It does not matter how big or small you are, courage comes from the inside.

Assemblies and coming together have been one of the significant losses we have experienced during the pandemic. Whilst we still continue to deliver assemblies remotely, it is not quite the same experience as having the pupils together to share messages and celebrate successes.

COVID UPDATE

This week also saw our first positive Covid result which required action. The way the students and staff responded was exceptional; calm, measured and effective. The situation allowed us to test our learning from the previous lockdown on Monday when all Year 12 were taught remotely.

We were very impressed with Year 12's co-operation. We checked in with some teachers to see how things had gone:

Everything went to plan. Only one boy was absent and he sent his apologies. We managed to get everything planned for the lesson done. The audio quality of the call was superb.

I was pleased with yesterday - I did a live lesson for my Italian group. I had all but one boy present (he had Teams issues) and several thanked me this morning saying they thought it had been really good. (A good start to the day!)

The boys were cooperative and the majority of them were online and engaging at the right time. I did a little video chat to explain a bit of content plus put questions, solutions and notes on Teams.

The communication with Year 12 on our 'Year 12 Maths 2020-2021' Teams is a big positive as we can get messages out to all 150 boys studying A-level Maths in Year 12.

The feedback is pleasing but our aim is to keep as many students safe and well in school. We will also continue to support those pupils who are having to self-isolate.

Could we also kindly remind you that if anyone in your household develops symptoms, your son is not allowed to come into school. He may only return to school on receipt of a negative result for the person who has symptoms.

Despite the challenges facing us all, your sons continue to impress. Teaching is as enjoyable as ever; pupils are alert, engaged, fun and inspiring. We continue to strive to provide a supportive, calm and inspiring environment.

Your continued support during this period is much appreciated.

With kind regards

**Alex Wallace
Deputy Headmaster**