



Whole School Thank You!

6th November 2020

Thanks can sometimes be cast around like confetti leading to their worth being lessened. We would never want such a circumstance to exist at THS – but, I would like the whole community to accept my genuinely felt gratitude. Each day seems to bring new challenges to our operations (when I entered the teaching profession I never thought I would at some point make an instructional video for safely putting on face coverings!) - however, the goodwill and cooperation from boys, parents and staff is absolute and heart-warming.

November is set to be a testing month and those aforementioned challenges will inevitably keep on coming. A new national lockdown will place pressures on family units; but our 'togetherness' will help us along the way. There is a danger of us all existing under a 'Covid-cloud' but THS hopes to continue as normally as we can. There is nothing more infectious than the enthusiasm of The Young and we are determined to feed that enthusiasm this month and bring some collective joy!

Of course we will aim to keep safe at all times – but, rest assured the boys will be returning home with muddy knees, ruddy cheeks and humming tunes they have been preparing for a Christmassy piece. Throw in a home-grown Sci Fi book week (start organising your Stormtrooper outfits now) – and there is an awful lot to look forward to!



Some members of the current Year 8 'starring' in their first nativity !



REMEMBRANCE DAY

As we approach Remembrance Day next week we recently received some very exciting news regarding an organisation with close links to THS.

The Western Front Way was born out of the sentiments of 2nd Lieutenant Alexander Douglas Gillespie of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders who wrote home from the front line, in 1915, to tell of his vision of 'a via sacra' (a sacred road), a route for peace between the lines.

He wrote:

"when peace comes, our government might combine with the French government to make one long avenue between the lines from the Vosges to the sea...I would make a fine broad road in the 'No-Mans Land' between the lines, with paths for pilgrims on foot and plant trees for shade and fruit trees, so that the soil should not altogether be waste. Then I would like to send every man, woman and child in Western Europe on a pilgrimage along that Via Sacra so that they might think and learn what war means from the silent witnesses on either side."

The Western Front Way is an homage to 2nd Lieutenant Gillespie's vision and forms a new long-distance walking and cycling route from the French Alps in the South to the Belgian coast in the North. The eventual route is 1000km, with all of Belgium plaqued and marked with over 450 of the WFW logo symbols to follow. The next section from the French border to Albert in the Somme will be completed by Spring 2021.



Rory Forsyth
CEO



THS's association with the Western Front Way was originally through Jamie Forsyth, who was our Chair of Governors for many years up until he sadly died in June 2018.

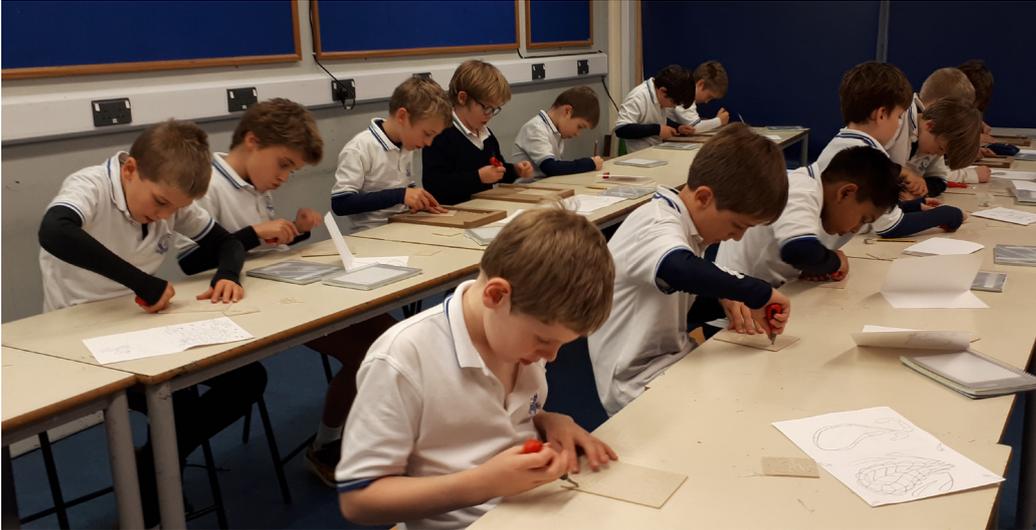
Jamie's son, Rory, a THS old boy, had developed a keen interest in WW1, encouraged by his father, and he subsequently took up the challenge to be involved in getting the route completed and now runs the charity as its CEO. This was no small task, as the route passes through several countries, and sometimes more importantly several local districts and villages, from whom permission and co-operation had to be sought with over 100 active partners.

Last month The Western Front Way team were awarded the highly esteemed ESDA/CiDAN European Award for Citizenship, Security and Defense, (in the Remembrance and Reconciliation Category) for creating the biggest single Remembrance project on the globe. Rory will soon be receiving the Medal of the President of the French Republic as thanks for the efforts to keep remembrance both alive and forward looking into the next century.

Rory has visited THS on several occasions to present at assembly, meet the boys and tell them about the project, particularly Y5 prior to their residential trip to France and the battlefields. All at THS send our hearty congratulations and we know that his father would have been extremely proud!



Year 5 have started a lino printing project this week and learnt how to use lino cutters safely to cut out a paisley inspired design. Stay tuned to see their prints next week!



GAMES UPDATES

Games & temporary change to venue

Parents of senior school pupils were informed of this change yesterday but please note that unfortunately the BofE sports centre has had to close during lock down. Boys will still be having games but as a temporary measure we will be using Palewell Park.

It is very important that all boys from Year 2-8 must have football boots with them (the pitches do tend to be a little muddy). If Year 2/3 boys don't have boots alternatively a spare pair of shoes must be brought to school. Please can boys in Year 1 and Reception bring a spare pair of shoes with them to school on their games days (Monday Y1 & Tuesday Reception).

All boys must have tracksuits at school on games days. School woolly hats may be bought from Mrs Markwell.

Please note if the weather is prohibitively bad then boys will have games at school.

Drop off and parking

Sadly we have received a number of complaints from neighbours and in particular the local garage on Sheen lane that parents are not being considerate and respectful with their parking at drop off and collection times. Our relationship in the local community is vital and we ask that all parents are mindful of this at all times.

Please can we ask that you;

Please do not pull up and drop boys in front of the gates as this causes a danger to other road and pavement users

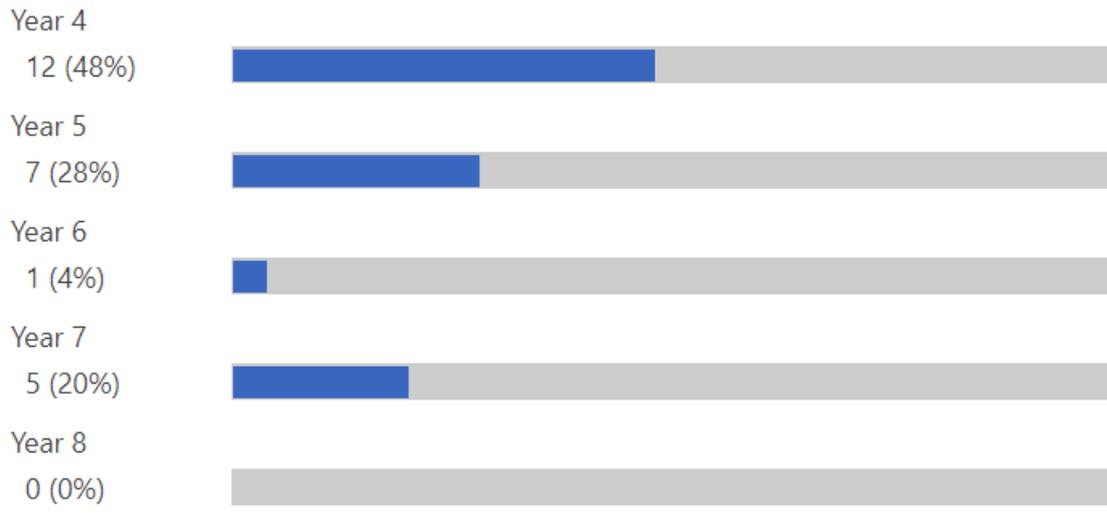
Please do not stop on the zig-zag lines at either entrance

Please do not obstruct the entrance to Sheen Lane Garage (even if only for a few minutes)

We appreciate your help and support on these matters.



Your Year Group



Some fantastic book reviews were entered over half term and this week has seen more entries from Years 4 to 7 - well done boys! An especially good start for Year 4 but Years 5 and 7 aren't far behind!

This week's overall house point winners are ... **NELSON**
Congratulations!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Gregory Evans, Headmaster