

Heartbeat



Monday, November 16



Issue 10

How we remembered them



Sacred Heart marked last Wednesday's Remembrance Day with a beautiful and emotional tribute.

School work stopped at 11 o'clock to pay tribute and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice during WWI.

As part of the tribute, staff and students had created a display in the form of an art installation by the red staircase at the College's Upper Site.

Thousands of poppies, created by students during Art lessons, adorned the staircase and photographs of relatives who served during both World Wars were displayed in the wooden panels by the stairs.

As part of the tribute, poppies were released and cascaded down the well of the stairs, whilst students also read out poetry. Amongst those leading the tributes was History's Mr Gardiner and he explains more about the tributes.

He said: "This year Remembrance Day was a little different.

"With the global pandemic changing how we commemorate those that died on the battlefields for our freedom, Sacred Heart felt we had to help the community pay their respects.

"During the run up to the 11th November, the red stairs at Upper Site were transformed into a place where the school community could gather and remember the fallen.

Cascading

"With poppies cascading down the stairs and pictures of family members of staff on the walls, this became the centre of events at 11 o'clock on the 11th November.

"To ensure those who could not pay their respects in person did not miss out, the event was streamed live on the College website.

"In the build up to the event, members of 9D stood on the stairs to represent the pu-

pils of Sacred Heart and the commemorations began with an introduction by Head teacher, Mr Pye.

"Following this, the poem, *In Flanders Field*, by John McCrae, was read out by Isabelle Telles Lennon (10H) and then, *To The Fallen*, by Laurence Binyon, was read by Meghan Farrington (see p2).

At the strike of 11, the College bell was rung and the whole community fell silent.

"Thousands of poppies were then released and cascaded down the well of the red staircase, helping us remember the battlefields of the First World War, where this flower was to grow after the war was over. "During the second minute of silence, *The Last Post* was played, bringing our silence to a conclusion.

"The whole congregation then moved outside to plant crosses on our own field of Remembrance."



A moment of ‘perspective’ in these uncertain times

Students from across the year groups helped take part and create Wednesday’s moving Remembrance tribute.

Among them was Meghan Farrington (13S), who read out the Laurence Binyon poem, *To The Fallen*, as part of the commemorative tributes.

The caring Sixth Former spoke afterwards about what taking part in the ceremony meant to her and shared her thoughts about how Sacred Heart remembered those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Clarity

Meghan said: “Amidst the chaos and turmoil of the world today, a real moment of perspective and clarity fell upon the school at 11 o’clock on Wednesday, November 11.

“As the thousands of poppies fell and silence descended upon the school, it suddenly became clear how very lucky we are and how much we owe to our fallen heroes.

“The poignancy of the poem I was lucky to read was echoed in the moment of silence we shared; that no matter what the circumstances, or how much time passes, ‘we will remember them’.”

