



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Senior School COURIER

13th November 2020

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

TAUNTON SCHOOL REMEMBERS

*FOR YOUR TOMORROW
WE GAVE OUR TODAY.*



Throughout the past week Remembrance events have been held across the School, with services for the Prep School and Senior School. There were also Acts of Remembrance carried out on Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial and at 11 o'clock on Armistice Day outside the Chapel. In these strange times, it was so pleasing to be able to mark such an important occasion with the community together. The Acts of Remembrance were supported by an Honour Guard from the School CCF, ably led by RSM Makena Nesbitt. Both services, put together so beautifully by Dr. Getnam, included stories about family members of staff who had fought in wars

from WW1 to the present day. As the personal stories were told. Students were challenged to think about those that we have lost, whether that be OTs, friends or even those commemorated by the Unknown Warrior who was buried 100 years ago on Wednesday amongst the Kings at Westminster Abbey. From the community gathering on Sunday morning, through to Mr Gallimore's Head's Assembly on Tuesday to the Remembrance Service on Wednesday, it has been a thought provoking and moving week at Taunton School; **We Will Remember Them.**

Andrew Pring, Contingent Commander CCF

More Inside

Remembrance Week

DT news

Meet Hayley Mortimer

Weirfield Halloween

Rugby action

And plenty more....

Next Senior Courier: 27th November 2020

SENIOR COURIER

Head's Up: Remembrance Week

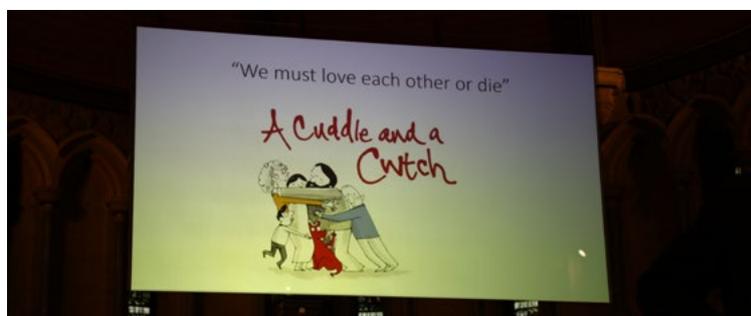
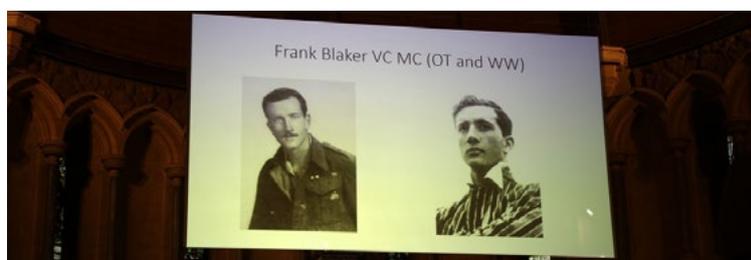
by Damian Henderson



One of the notable effects of the pandemic has been for us to reassess what is truly important in life, and this applies keenly to schools. When the senior school ops team sat down in the summer to try to plan the autumn term, one of the things which stood out as a priority was ensuring that we gave due time and care to remembering our collective past. The suite of events that has taken place across all parts of the school during Remembrance Week has filled me with pride as a member of the community, not just because we did it in spite of covid, but on account of the strength of the engagement from the students, parents and staff. Reverend Dr. Getman's beautiful Remembrance Chapel is written up elsewhere in this Courier, and I would like to take this opportunity to add my gratitude to the lovely messages of thanks she and the other contributors have been receiving. Well done to the cadets who did a brilliant job as always. I would also like to thank Mr. Gallimore for his Remembrance Assembly on Tuesday which, as always, featured a gripping mix of scholarship, humour

and personal insight. We heard about Frank Blaker VC MC, an Old Tauntonian (from Wills West) who fearlessly led a mission in Japan in 1944, being shot seven times in the process and, in his dying words, thought only of the men he commanded. Mr. Gallimore's message was about bravery, belonging, suppression of self-interest, devotion to higher callings, kindness, and diversity. He went on to talk about the hidden psychological traumas of war, and the importance of taking the mental health of others seriously. To finish, we learnt the expression "A cuddle and a cwutch" – the latter being a supportive, non-judgemental and empathetic hug. How keenly do we all wish that we could give each other one of those this weekend! Thank you to everyone who made this week work.

Damian Henderson, Deputy Head Academic



The Week Ahead

Saturday, 14th November	Year 10 Internal Exams 8.30 - 8.55 - Chapel and Enrichment
Sunday, 15th November	Boarders' Brunch
Monday, 16th November	International Day of Tolerance
Tuesday, 17th November	8.30 - 8.55 Chapel 9.00 - 13.00 - Year 12 A Level Geography Data Collection Trip 15.45 - 17.00 - Year 9 and 10 Enrichment
Wednesday, 18th November	8.30 - 8.55 - Headmaster's Assembly 9.00 - 13.00 - Year 12 A Level Geography Data Collection Trip 17.05 - 17.30 - Tea- Time Concert, Chapel 18.00 - 21.00 - Devised Performances 18.30 - 19.30 - BTEC Virtual Information Evening
Thursday, 19th November	15.45 - 17.05 - Year 11, 12 and 13 Enrichment 18.00 - 19.00 - Dance Show
Friday, 20th November	Mufti Day - supporting Yeovil freewheelers charity 8.30 - 8.55 - Scholars Sessions 9.00 - 9.05 - Deadline for Effort and Achievement Grades - All Years

Taunton School Memories

These fascinating pictures have been looked after by Taunton School Archivist John Brown and show the CCF through the years, right back to the 1920s.



CCF Inspection Day - 1930s



CCF Inspection Day - 1950s/60s



Shooting Team - 1920s/early 30s



OTC Band - 1930s/40s



1960s



undated

“We Will Remember Them” - TSI Viewpoint

In the modern world, great wars and conflicts of the past may, for many, seem a distant memory. Since the end of the Second World War in 1945, one could argue that the world has been in the constant grip of political pressure; ‘warfare’ being led, during the latter part of the 20th Century, by espionage from the shadows rather than personnel on the front line.

This said, you need look no further back than to 1998, when the ‘Troubles’ in Ireland came to a conclusion, and to all the men and women serving overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and the Baltics, to see modern warfare in action. Men and women continue to lay down their lives for the betterment of not just their country, but also of the world. Many modern missions involve Peace Keeping or Crisis Aid rather than ‘formal’ conflict, but these can be somewhat hidden from view as these conflicts are often in distant countries.

A very good friend of my father (both ex-services men), posted a comment online on Remembrance Sunday a few years ago. It simply said:

“I am a Veteran, who at one point in my life wrote a blank cheque to the United Kingdom for an amount of up to, and including, my life.”

These men and women lay their lives down for the betterment of us all, and we are often guilty of not appreciating the day to day liberties we have gained due to their endeavours. Their work is even more pronounced during the current COVID-19 crisis, where many have stepped in to aid the NHS, running field and drive

through testing facilities, and Army doctors aiding in front-line COVID-19 facilities alongside their civilian peers.

It is vital in this day and age that we do not forget the lessons of the past, and to remember those who fought for how we live today. Whether one agrees or disagrees with conflict or the presence of the Armed Forces on the world stage, all of us have benefited from the work they did, and the lives they laid down. Soldiers will continue to support us all in ways not easily recognised, and I believe we must continue to pay our respects to them all.

On Remembrance Sunday 2020, TSI joined with their peers at Taunton School in a service of remembrance. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of VE and VJ days (Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan), making it a significant year of remembrance for many and one of vital importance for our community going forward.

As the commonly spoken phrase from Binyon’s poem ‘For the Fallen’ says:

‘They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.’

Ben Wilkinson, GRA, TSI



An unusual tale of a forgotten OT War Hero

GASTON ARTHUR VINCENT - 'Commandant Azur', French Resistance

Gaston Vincent was French, born in 1891, and lived in the village of Denain in Picardy. He was the son of a Baptist pastor and teacher, and may have come to TS because of its nonconformist status at the time – he attended for just two terms in 1909-10. While at school he was a Librarian, and his work as Secretary of the school orchestra was also much appreciated. He was a radio operator in WW1 and was wounded. He married in Lyon in 1923 and ran a heating business between the wars. In 1941 after the German invasion of France he set up a branch of the Amitié Chrétienne in Marseille where he was now living. This was an organisation that helped victims of the Vichy regime with accommodation, false papers and financial support. Gaston later started a safe house for Jewish children rescued from camps from which they would likely have been deported. Helped by his son Michel he dressed many of them as Protestant scouts to facilitate their escape, and it seems he saved at least 30 from almost certain death. From 1942 he was a fully-fledged member of the French Resistance (Maquis) where he put his radio skills to good use as a link man based in Algeria. He also helped his brother Raymond organise Resistance groups in the Bouches-du-Rhône area of southern France. The latter was later caught and executed by the Gestapo. Back in France, in 1943 Gaston continued to lead the local Maquis under the code name Commandant Azur but the Gestapo got wind of their activities and he had to go into hiding for 6 months, first in the mountains and then at a Maquis safe house in the Drôme run by two sisters. He escaped capture during one reprisals raid but was finally arrested and sentenced to death in June 1944. It is just possible that he died of disease before his execution was carried out: records simply confirm his death on 25 June 1944. Gaston Vincent's name appears on no war memorial, though as a French war veteran he was recognised as 'Mort Pour la France'. In 1986 his story became more widely known, and for his saving of Jewish children he was given the accolade of Righteous Among the Nations by the state of Israel, along with his son Michel. He is the only OT to hold this honour as far as we know and deserves to be remembered as a true hero. It is hoped we can add his name to our School War Memorial in the near future.

John Brown, School Archivist

Remembrance Sunday





Armistice Day

At 11am on 11th November, the whole school was able to safely come together to pay their respects to mark Armistice Day. A short film bringing together some of the more poignant aspects of our events, including our Remembrance Service, our Commemoration event and also a reflection on days gone by and how conflict has affected all of our school community is available to watch on our Facebook page ([click here to view](#)).



Meet the Assistant Head Co-Curricular & Outreach - Hayley Mortimer

What is your job role and which age groups do you work with?

Assistant Head, Co-Curricular and Outreach in the senior school, so working primarily with Years 9-13 although elements of the role encompass liaising with the other parts of the school such as TPS, TSI and TSIMS. Whilst we do not have a specific Director of Sport role in the school, this still sits within my Co-Curricular role.

How did the first half term go? What impact have the new restrictions had on sport?

The first half term was fairly similar in many ways, we focused on certain sports in our games sessions, so cricket, football, hockey and played fixtures in these sports and then transitioned into Ready for Rugby fixtures from there. The provision had to be adapted to slightly different formats of the game based on National Governing Body guidance, but on the whole we were able to deliver a programme that enabled students to be involved in lots of different sports and competitive matches. The hardest thing in many ways for us, was that lots of schools were not playing fixtures, so we had to repeat fixtures with schools that were and also travelled a little more locally than we normally would do. For me the most important thing was creating the opportunity for all students to be active, to play sports that they enjoy and to have the opportunity to play competitively where they can. Their efforts across the board were outstanding and I have been very proud by the commitment and passion of both students and staff alike.

When did you start at Taunton School and what did you do before?

I stated at Taunton in September 2010 as Head of Physical Education, having worked as a PE teacher and Head of House (and been a student) at Pate's Grammar School in Cheltenham.

What led you into teaching?

Apparently the story goes that after my first netball session in Primary School (where my mum helped as a parent coach), I told my parents that I was going to teach netball for my job and the rest as they say is history... It would be fair to say that I was an able sports performer and therefore the affinity to teaching sport as a career pathway made total sense, but I did not realise until I started teaching the impact that supporting students and seeing development and progress in whatever part of their education is the most rewarding part of the job.

Who inspires you?

People within my everyday life- there are many people, staff and students, within the school community that inspire me every day. I am lucky to work in a school which has committed and inspirational teachers who deliver exciting and engaging opportunities. At the same time, the students do exactly the same: the student who gets up to read in chapel for the first time, the student who is selected to play in a school match for the first time, the student who picks up another students' books off the floor for them, when they drop them or the student who sings a solo, or is the lead in a drama production... the small things that happen every day are the things that inspire and motivate me to make a difference within the Taunton School community.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Watching the journey that every individual students makes. You see it every day at school in every different element of school life.



What do you find most challenging?

Pleasing everyone- in a community which is vibrant and full of activity it is sometimes hard to get everything to fit without disappointing someone or without a clash. SOCS enables that to happen far less frequently, but of course I still can't always magic up some space in the Sports Hall or a member of staff to take people to golf. It is testament to our community that we are always looking to modify and adapt our programme for the better.

How do you 'switch off' from your job at the end of the school day?

It would be fair to say that I am often at school until quite late because I really enjoy attending the activities and events- I see this often as part of my leisure or relaxation time as I enjoy it. When I do go home, there is nothing better than a bath, a decent film and a little treat to go with it.

Quick Fire questions now...

Favourite Film

A Knight's Tale or any of the Harry Potter Films.

Favourite Book

This is Going to Hurt – Adam Kay

Hobbies

Swimming (Open Water mostly)

Favourite singers/bands

None – I like an eclectic mix of music, I love a sing along and know all the words to most songs, but I could never tell you who sings them.

Favourite TV programmes

Below Deck

Any claims to fame

I played National League and County Netball, with the current England Netball Coach Jess Thirby.

Thank you Hayley for telling us a little about yourself, and for everything you do at School.

DT Student Tom leads the way

Talented Year 13 student Tom is currently taking Design and Technology alongside BTEC Business in Y13. Tom is one of the first students to choose this as an option in the 6th form. This combination is not unusual however, and one that combines well. Many of the taught topics are covered in both subject areas. Such as the Robotics, Technical Advancements and Automation, Kaizan, Lean Production and Quality Control. Thus, creating plenty of knowledge blending and overlap. This can also be said of Business at A level, and Economics at IB.

Mr Bough has had the pleasure of teaching Tom for the past 4 years, and has enjoyed every minute of it. He has seen Tom develop into an excellent DT student. He has a good practical skill set where he can use any machine placed in front of him, has a working knowledge of materials and, more recently became an Autodesk 'Wizard'.

One area that has caused Tom issues is his design sketching. This area has really pushed Tom out of his comfort zone. It is pleasing to say that he has always tried to improve, and never given up on wanting to be better at sketching. This year, in Y13, is when it all clicked.

Tom is currently working on his final piece of coursework. The focus of his project is encouraging Pre-Prep students to dispose of their facemasks safely, and to encourage the use of sanitizer and clean hands through the notion of fun and play.



TSI enjoy Sixth Form Information Evening

After a restful half-term, the Year 11 students at Taunton School International have been thinking about the next step in their studies when they attended the Sixth Form Information Evening.

At the end of their first day, the Year 11 students at TSI headed to the TS Senior School to learn about life as a sixth former.

Mr Glaser spent a moment talking the students through their options, before department heads gave brief talks around their academic lives and the EAL support at TS. The students then met some of the key pastoral house staff and some current 6th form students, and were given an opportunity to ask questions and hear from the inside what it's really like.

At this point in their academic lives, it was brilliant to see the students looking forward to the future. We at TSI all look forward to seeing as many familiar faces as possible at the Senior School in the coming years!



Design Technology Materials Game

Using the image of the hockey shin pad being, complete the properties word search (right).

Glyn Bough
Head of Design Technology



Shin Pads

S	L	E	H	B	T	T	I	E	I	T	L	F	O
N	I	A	T	T	I	C	D	E	H	T	I	T	E
A	G	E	B	N	F	A	S	B	G	H	G	R	I
L	H	R	S	E	L	P	N	L	B	E	T	I	S
E	T	A	I	C	I	M	R	I	S	I	T	E	S
D	W	F	L	E	X	I	B	L	E	I	L	G	T
U	E	S	U	B	L	B	T	E	H	R	R	H	I
R	I	R	T	E	A	R	A	O	O	F	H	G	F
A	G	F	S	B	O	O	E	C	G	B	L	U	F
B	H	O	O	F	T	S	M	I	R	L	P	O	N
L	T	B	S	A	T	B	E	T	E	S	I	T	E
E	L	I	E	R	U	A	B	S	H	E	S	N	S
R	E	R	M	B	E	S	E	R	T	T	T	I	S
A	B	S	O	R	B	M	O	I	S	T	U	R	E

ABSORB IMPACT
ABSORB MOISTURE
FLEXIBLE
DURABLE
STIFFNESS
TOUGH
LIGHTWEIGHT

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1592475/>



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Tea-time Concert

Every Wednesday from 5.05pm - 5.30pm in the Chapel

Watch online: <https://intranet.tauntonschool.co.uk/liveevents/concerts/tea-time-concerts>



Support your friends and get inspired!

Concerts run every Wednesday throughout each term, from 5.05pm - 5.30pm

Everyone from Year 9 to Year 13 are welcome. If you would like to perform or find out more information, please see Mr Reading.

Top sporting achievements for Issy

Congratulations to Issy Hogevoold who has been selected for the Somerset Cricket Girls U17 County Age Group Winter Training Programme. Issy also plays football representing Somerset Schools and was crowned joint National Champions with Lancashire earlier this month. Well done Issy!

Joanna Evans, Jenkin Housemistress



Weirfield get Spooky!

Here are some photos of this year's Halloween celebrations in Weirfield. It's always a real highlight of the year with doughnut bobbing, pumpkin carving, spooky snacks as well as Wrap the Mummy and a spider piñata thrown in for good measure! Every year the pumpkins get more elaborate and creative and this year's winners were the Year 11 bubble.

Laura Brayley, Weirfield Housemistress



SPORT

Rugby House Matches - 17th October



Thank you so much to students and staff. Great to see our students playing with positive spirit. 20 teams were involved, 41 matches, 363 tries and 9 fantastic referees. Fantastic day! Well done Marshall!

Y9 COMPETITION**WINNER**

Runner up
3rd place
4th place

MARSHALL (9PTS)

Goodland (6pts)
Evans (3pts)
Boarders Combined (0pts)

**Y10 COMPETITION****WINNER**

Runner up
3rd place
4th place
5th place

MARSHALL (12PTS)

Evans (9pts)
Combined Boarders (6pts)
Goodland (3pts)
Foxcombe (0pts)

**Y11 COMPETITION****WINNER**

Runner up
3rd place
4th place
5th place

MARSHALL (10PTS)

Combined Boarders (9pts)
Goodland (3pts)
Evans (3pts)
Foxcombe (0pts)

**Y12-13 COMPETITION****WINNER**

Runner up
3rd place
4th place
5th place
6th place

MARSHALL (15PTS)

Fairwater (12pts)
Goodland (7pts)
Evans (5pts)
Wills East (4pts)
Wills West (0pts)



SPORT

Rugby Club Matches - 7th November

On Saturday, rugby players played an adapted touch competition following the current guidelines. All players were drafted by captains into a rugby club (Exeter Chiefs, Bristol Bears, Bath Rugby and Gloucester Rugby) and played for one of the four teams per club.

FORMAT

Junior Cup Competition	Exeter Chiefs Academy, Bristol Bears Academy, Bath Rugby Academy, Gloucester Rugby Academy
Junior Plate Competition	Exeter Chiefs Development, Bristol Bears Development, Bath Rugby Development, Gloucester Rugby Development
Senior Cup Competition	Exeter Chiefs, Bristol Bears, Bath Rugby, Gloucester Rugby
Senior Plate Competition	Exeter Chiefs A league, Bristol Bears A league, Bath Rugby A league, Gloucester Rugby A league

RESULTS:

Junior Cup Competition	1. Bath Rugby Academy
	2. Bristol Bears Academy
	3. Exeter Chiefs Academy
	4. Gloucester Academy
Junior Plate Competition	1. Bristol Bears Development
	2. Gloucester Rugby Development
	3. Exeter Chiefs Development
	4. Bath Rugby Development
Senior Cup Competition	1. Gloucester Rugby
	2. Bristol Bears
	3. Exeter Chiefs
	4. Bath Rugby
Senior Plate Competition	1. Gloucester Rugby A league
	2. Exeter Chiefs A league
	3. Bath Rugby A league
	4. Bristol Bears A league



SPORT

Rugby - 7th November



SATURDAY SPORT

Our School Sport's Programme continued on Saturday with intra-school fixtures in Girl's Hockey, Rugby (see previous page) and Football.

As always it was great to see so many of our students playing, coaching and officiating within the different formats of the game as we adapt to the current guidelines.

Our Sports provision this weekend also included tennis and netball training.

Hayley Mortimer, Assistant Head Co-Curricular and Outreach

