

# A VIEW OF THE CLOSE

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020



## FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK



The restrictions on how we gather are particularly felt at times when we would normally host events at the College. This week saw two major events, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, marked in a slightly different way.

Last Sunday a pre-recorded service, filmed in the Chapel, was made available to the Dover College community via YouTube. We are enormously grateful to Minister Debbie Scoble for presiding and to Lt Col Andrew Hodkinson (a current parent) for his moving address. A copy of the Remembrance Sunday service can be viewed [here](#), and the Prep 5 and 6 Remembrance Assembly can be viewed [here](#).

On Wednesday we attempted our first ever live stream, broadcasting footage of members of the SLT and the Heads of House and School performing a socially distanced Act of Remembrance beside the Billie Nevill statue. Although the rest of the school community were unable to be physically present with us, they were able to join virtually. The terror of war was brought home to us all, as we heard the chilling sound of the air raid sirens going off around Dover. A recording is [here](#).

This week ended with much excitement in our Prep School. Prep 1 and 2 enjoyed creating a models of 17<sup>th</sup> Century London, which were set alight in the Discovery Garden to recreate the Great Fire of London. Prep 3 and 4 had a Roman Day, which began with a very special message to them from the writer and star of Horrible Histories. Prep 5 and 6, who have been studying World War II, recreated a battle using NERF guns.

## IMPROVING CRITICAL THINKING

Although having access to information is vital, the increase of fake news online, particularly around the COVID-19 pandemic, has made it more urgent to help children and young people develop their critical thinking to spot the difference between fact and fiction online.

From research that has been done, we know that only 29% of children and young people in the UK have the critical literacy skills they need to tell whether a news story is real or fake.

A helpful resource is available [here](#).

OUR HOUSE COMPETITION IS NOW WELL UNDERWAY! CHECK THE STANDINGS [HERE](#)



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House Points are calculated using the methodology below, with appropriate adjustments made to account for varying House sizes:



**Academic Achievement**  
(Merits, Certs etc)



**Sport & Performing Arts**  
(20% Each)



**Miscellaneous Events**  
(quizzes etc)

## HELP US ALL TO KEEP SAFE

We ask for your support as we continue to encourage social distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene and the use of face coverings. As per Government guidance, the measures differ slightly between the Prep School and Senior School.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME AND ARRANGE A TEST IF THEY EXHIBIT ANY OF THE THREE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS SPECIFIED BY THE NHS



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## FROM THE PREP SCHOOL

In the Prep School, we consider community, cohesion and creativity as fundamental to a developmentally and emotionally supportive learning environment. We have been fortunate enough this week to allow for each of these to return to the forefront of our school routine, whilst maintaining vigilance in our health and safety procedures.

In response to feedback from pupils and parents/carers, Prep School children ate school lunch in the Refectory for the first time this academic year. Though timings were staggered and the pupils were socially distanced, the children delighted in returning to a place which holds many memories and is such a cornerstone of community life here at the College. For some of our newer pupils it was their first visit, and many commented on the beauty of the Refectory and, naturally, made comparisons to a famous fictional dining hall!



Creativity was in abundance today for our History Day. Pupils from Prep 1 and 2 were ablaze with excitement as they recreated the spread of the Great Fire of London in the Discovery Garden, whilst Prep 3 and 4 pupils enjoyed a Roman feast, practised battle formations and honed their archery skills. Not to be outdone, Prep 5 and 6 dressed up in World War 2 typical clothes and took part in a battle recreation using army nets, equipment and Nerf Guns. Such holistic experiences really serve to bring the pupils' learning to life. A gallery of images of each event will be made available via our social media feeds over the next 24 hours.



## THE STORY OF BILLIE NEVILL

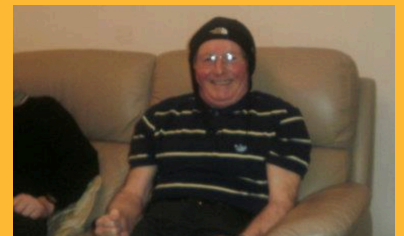
Our new Marketing Coordinator, Louis Turner, was surprised to discover a link to Dover College history when he told his grandfather about his new role last month.

In the 1960s, Louis' grandparents were involved in the production of recorded newsletters for blind people. They had read and been fascinated by the inspirational accounts of Captain Wilfred 'Billie' Nevill. Whilst travelling through France one summer, they decided to visit the site of the Battle of the Somme where Wilfred commanded B Company of the 8th East Surreys.

As we all know, Wilfred Nevill is remembered for commencing the attack by encouraging his soldiers to kick footballs before them as they advanced towards the enemy lines. Wilfred was killed during the early phase of this assault.

Louis has a copy of the recording his grandparents made, which includes them narrating this incredible story of bravery in the face of adversity.

Click [here](#) to listen to the recording.



Mr Michael Savage

## St Martin's Feast

