

Value for this half term: Perseverance

Theme for this week (7 Nov - 11 Nov 2022): Perseverance to finish the job

Life Skills theme for the week: We foster strength of character

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4

Traditionally, November is the month of Remembrance. This is related to the fact that the end of November is the end of the Liturgical (Church) Year, with a new year starting on the First Sunday of Advent – the four-week period of preparation before Christmas.

During this time, we may specifically remember and pray for those who have died, our family members and friends. Although customs may vary from one culture to another, throughout history humans have placed special emphasis on recalling those who have died. The American playwright, Thornton Wilder wrote, “There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning.” By remembering those who have gone before we pay tribute to them. Wilder also says, “The highest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude.” The month of November, this month of remembrance, gives us a particular space to express our love and gratitude through our thoughts and prayers.

For many, the coming week in November is a time when we recall and pay tribute to those who have died in conflict. You may well watch on television the National Service of Remembrance which is held at The Cenotaph in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday, or join your local community at your town or village War Memorial. As the Royal British Legion reminds us: “Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.”

Armistice Day this year falls on Friday; as is traditional, we will mark the moment of the Armistice - an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War, the prelude to peace negotiations - at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month. At school, we will observe a one minute silence. Please note: students who are associated with a uniformed service (Explorers, Cadets etc.) have permission to wear their uniform to school on the day; they will also be invited to attend our Remembrance Service at school.

On a different note, thank you to students, staff, parents, carers and the wider community for the roles you played in helping to make last Friday’s Firework Display such an enjoyable, safe and successful event. We will provide an update about the funds raised; in the meantime, please take a moment to enjoy the beautiful firework images on our school Twitter feed!

Prayer for Remembrance and the week ahead

When the burden of grief is heavy,
lighten our load and lift our spirits.
When despair darkens our horizon,
shine forth your light and lead the way.
When our hearts feel broken,

comfort us and hold us in your embrace.
When we rage against the injustice of loss,
channel this power into all that is good.
When sorrow surrounds us,
wrap us in hope that we may endure.
When we are overwhelmed in the dark of night,
may the breaking of dawn bring peace.
For we know, O Lord, our God,
that you hear our cries for help,
and so we ask you to
turn our mourning into dancing,
to take away our sadness
and to clothe us with joy.

Amen

Useful links and ongoing notices:

- The [school website](#) is a useful source of information.
- Please visit the Harleston Sancroft Academy [Twitter feed](#) for news and updates.
- [Here](#) is a list of lunchtime and after-school clubs. **Please note: there will be a change to football training starting today:** Boys' football training will now be on a Monday after school; Girls' football training will be on a Wednesday after school. The website information will be updated in due course.
- Please note, all clubs are FREE and students do not need to sign up - they can just turn up on the day. For any lunchtime sports clubs, students should put on their trainers (they won't change into full sports kit). For after-school sports clubs, students will need to be fully changed into their PE kit.
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Key upcoming events:

Monday 7 Nov: Year 11 exams (Exams 1) will continue until Wednesday 9 Nov.

Friday 11 Nov: Armistice Day - students who are associated with a uniformed service (Explorers, Cadets etc.) have permission to wear their uniform to school on the day; they will also be invited to attend our school Remembrance Service.

Sunday 13 Nov: Remembrance Sunday - the Parade forms on Exchange Street & Harleston Market Place at 10:30am

Monday 12 Dec: Deadline for confirmed Work Experience [placement](#) (log in with your HSA email): hand form to your form tutor or Mr Ahrenfelt.