

Platanos College News

Monday 12th November 2018

Remembrance Day Ceremony 2018

On Monday 12th November 2018, Platanos College met as a school community to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

We did not meet together to celebrate war. Nor did we meet to celebrate victory over others. We met to remember those individuals who have gone before us to give their lives; young men and women who have died in order to protect the freedoms of us today.

No one in their right mind would see war as the sensible solution to a problem. However, throughout history, leaders of countries have decided to go to war. In most cases war has come as a last resort.

Pupils at the school were reminded – as the next generation of leaders and decision makers of this country – of the dangers of politicians who make decisions based on self-interest and greed. They were also reminded of the dangers of nationalism in threatening the search for world peace.

As a school community, pupils showed their appreciation to the soldiers of the First World War, the Second World War and all wars since for their efforts in protecting the freedoms of democracy. For risking their lives and making the ultimate sacrifice to maintain the freedoms of democracy and ensure our present and our futures.

During the ceremony, the pupils reflected on the story of Ben Hyde, a 19 year old boy. He wrote the following letter to his parents in case he was killed in action. The story and the letter was a reminder that each number of the millions of people who have died in wars since the First World War is an individual person, with their own thoughts, feelings and emotions:

“Mum and dad,

“If you’re reading this, then you know I am not coming home. I’m up in the stars now, looking down on you, making sure that you are safe. I’m sorry for all of the times that I have been a pain. But I know the

good times outweigh the bad times tenfold. Thank you for being the best parents anyone could have ever wished for. In giving me anything I ever wanted and more. You've both got long lives ahead of you yet, so make sure you make use of every second you have because sitting here writing this now I know just how precious time is. Tell the rest of the family I was thinking of them and make sure they all take care. Forgiveness is something everybody deserves because one day it might be too late. Remember that every time you are thinking of me I'm thinking of you too. Look after yourselves. All my love.

Ben"

Following the whole school reflection, our Head Boys and Head Girls led the wreath laying ceremony along with our cadets, concluding an important occasion for the school.



Head Boys, Chung-Ping Xu and Zied Talaboulma; and Head Girls, Precious N’Gbale and Fiazana Rahman