

Remembrance Day at Highlands School



What is Remembrance Day?

Every year, the 11th November marks **Remembrance Day** in the UK and in many other parts of the former British Empire (known as the Commonwealth), such as India and Canada.

At the Eleventh Hour (11am) on the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month (11th November) after four long and bloody years of fighting, the guns finally fell silent and **World War I** came to an end in **1918**.

This was known as the *Armistice*.

Remembrance Sunday is the second Sunday in November as it is the one closest to Armistice Day - when World War I ended.

The Cenotaph in Whitehall, in Central London, is where the annual service on **Remembrance Sunday** takes place to **commemorate** the contribution of all British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women involved in the two World Wars and all later conflicts.

Representatives of the Armed Forces and the Government lay wreaths to remember those who have fallen.





Understanding what Remembrance Day is

Remembrance Day is a specific day each each year when we pause to remember and show respect for those who have died in war - from World War I and wars since then.

It always take place on **11th November** to remember the date when World War I ended.

There is always a 2 minute silence at 11am so that we can all remember those have fallen and lost their lives and health in conflicts from World War 1 and since.



Some people think that by focusing on the armed forces too much we are in danger of glorifying war, others think that we are simply showing our respect and reminding ourselves never to fight such a devastating war again.

How we **commemorate** is important to think about carefully because it reflects our values as a society - what is important to us in Great Britain.

Values of honesty, kindness and support for those who are not able to defend themselves against those who wish to harm them.





Festival of Remembrance

Each year, there is also a Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Through personal stories and music, the Festival celebrates the core **values** of Military Service which the public recognises as being important to the Armed Forces and also for the rest of us in society.

For example, **values** such as placing others before themselves, devotion to duty and unfailing reliability - **Service before self. This means helping others before themselves.**

Every military member realises from day one, that his or her individual needs will be second to the needs of the nation.





Remembrance Day 2024

This year it is 80 years since D-Day in June 1944. Many people placed helping others before themselves at that time when World War II was taking place.

The D-Day landings of 6 June 1944 were the largest seaborne invasion in history.

D-Day marked the beginning of the **liberation** of France and western Europe from Nazi Germany. D-Day and other important battles took place in 1944, all of which marked **turning points** in the World War I.



Summary of 2024 anniversaries of turning points in 1944

18 May 2024: 80th anniversary of the end of the **Battle of Monte Cassino** in Italy.

6 June 2024: 80th anniversary of D-Day and the start of the **Battle of Normandy** in France.

22 June 2024: 80th anniversary of the end of the **Battle of Kohima** in Japan.






The theme for Remembrance Day 2024

Each of these battles was a significant **turning point** in the war, and each was hard-fought and at a significant cost in casualties and lives.

Eight decades later we remember the service and **sacrifice** of the generation that opened the road to a freedom that we still celebrate today.



Remembering the sacrifices of heroes.

Alec Penstone

On D-Day Alec Penstone was serving on an aircraft carrier, which is a huge warship.

His job was to help protect the Allied Forces' boats from enemy submarines.

Without this protection, the Allied Forces might have been attacked by the enemy and stopped from landing in Normandy.





Remembrance Day 2024 - sacrifices remembered

Bernard Morgan was a soldier involved in the D Day landings in June 1944.

'We were glad to have survived a memorable day and felt lucky to be alive. That first night on land was a nightmare. We slept, or tried to sleep, under our vehicles for some protection from crossfire. All night the sky was lit with tracers and heavy gunfire.'

He survived and helped other soldiers too, putting himself in the line of fire.



Sergeant Johnson Beharry was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry, for extreme heroism in 2004.

While serving as a Warrior vehicle driver with the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment in Iraq, Beharry twice risked his life to save his crew and others.



Remembrance Day 2024 - making sacrifices

Service before self - what does that mean for us in the Highlands community?

Even though we are not part of Armed Forces, we can share the values of **thinking about others and doing what we can to help other people and not just thinking about ourselves.**

Respect - Understanding that we all don't share the same beliefs and values and appreciating the values, ideas and beliefs of others whilst not imposing our own on others people.

Equality - to remember that no one is better or worse than anyone else, no matter what their religion, background, culture or sexual identity is.



Remembering Together



There is one way of remembering which brings us all together.

On the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, we stop for the Two Minute Silence.

We can use this time to think about the people who serve, and say thank you for keeping us safe.

