

When GIVING UP is the RIGHT thing to do!

"I give up! I never wanted to learn to ride a stupid bike anyway!

shouted my 7 year old son as he threw down his bike as we attempted to ride up a hill. No amount of encouragement, reasoning or reward for getting to the top changed his mind. We've all been there (not the hill) and faced something we know needs to be done but will be a challenge to complete. We really don't want to put the effort in opt out with "I GIVE UP"!

It's a phrase that many would say displays a negative attitude. Indeed, there are plenty of ancient sayings that implore us to never, ever, ever, give up but keep on trying because in the end

you will achieve. However, I actually think GIVING UP is a good thing to do! Let me explain. Last Wednesday, on Armistice Day, I stood with many of you, alongside my PE group in the tennis courts. I wasn't sure if year 9 lads could actually be quiet, let alone be quiet AND stand still for two minutes!

However, as Mr Arnold gave the exhortation to remember the fallen and the last post was played, I am pleased to say that they absolutely smashed it! I was genuinely proud to stand alongside them, with the whole school community and be part of that shared experience. It was a poignant moment. The attitude of everyone was awesome and made me realise a few things about GIVING UP.



Each one of you who joined in with the ceremony, whether outside or in class, GAVE UP a moment of your life. You GAVE UP your learning time to reflect on those affected by conflict. My thoughts turned to those who GAVE UP their rights, their comfort and ultimately their life, to enable others to live in freedom.

The youngest authenticated British soldier in World War 1 was twelve year old Sidney Lewis, who fought at the battle of the Somme in 1916. A number of boys joined up to serve as soldiers before they were 18, the legal age to serve in the army. I was struck by the tremendous sacrifice these and thousands of others had made and wondered how WE might be prepared to GIVE UP for others.

"Greater love has no one than to lay down his life for a friend"says the Bible (John 15:13)

Jesus says this is the ultimate demonstration of love that anyone can show. He lived out what he taught. Jesus GAVE UP everything and lived humbly in relationship with God the Father, inspired by the Holy Spirit that we too might be able to do the same.

SO WHAT!? How does this connect with us in **S. Peters?** Like my son and his bike, we might say of life with God, "It's too much" 'I quit'! 'I give up!' and walk away. Imagine the difference it would make to those around us though if we chose to live life God's way. GIVING UP what we want, what we like, what we think, our rights, our time, our status or possessions to "treat others like you would want them to treat you." (Matt 7:12)

As I always say about **the Bible, "don't just read it, live it!"** So think and act on this last thought: All Staff at the school have GIVEN UP a lot of their time for YOU. Some organise lessons and resources, others prepare hot meals, or plan after school activities and support you in pastoral care. A whole team of people also GIVE UP their time to make the site secure and keep it clean. In the past weeks however, we have not honoured their work and after lunch especially, classrooms have been left in a mess. How is that Loving Your Neighbour? As christian school we encourage the ethos of GIVING UP ourselves and serving others as an outward demonstration of an inward commitment to follow Jesus. I'd like to encourage you to show how much you care for others by at least putting your own rubbish in a bin and even going the extra mile if needed to keep your class tidy.

I'll leave you with a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have. ANYBODY can put their own rubbish in the bin. EVERYBODY should do it but if NOBODY does it then SOMEBODY else will have to.



Will you GIVE UP this week?

Chaplain's Challenge - GET ACTIVE!

- 1. Where do you see people GIVING UP time, effort and life for the benefit of others?
- 2. What is the message in the story of Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody?
- 3. Find examples of people who GAVE UP their way of life to follow God.
- **4.** What does it mean "to go the extra mile"? How would this work out in school?
- 5. Share with your form what YOUR faith teaches about respect or serving others

READ and REFLECT - (referring to Jesus)

"And being found in human form, he humbled himself (GAVE UP his heavenly status) becoming obedient, willing to go to the point of death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:8

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we can't really understand how much you gave up in order that we might know God's love for us, but we are grateful that you did. Help us this week, to think more about GIVING UP ourselves and serving others - even if that is a small thing like putting rubbish in the bin! **Amen**



THANK YOU to those who have GIVEN UP food items for The Well and Good Shepherd.

Love your Neighbour ends 27th November!

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