

GRESHAM'S AT WAR

School launches WW1 commemorative website

GRESHAM'S

Gresham's School is delighted to announce the launch of a newly created website www.greshamsatwar.co.uk dedicated to the Old Greshamians (former pupils) and staff that fought and died in World War One.

The research for the website was carried out by a group of Gresham's School sixth form pupils and is a continuation of the excellent work of former Deputy Head, Sue Smart, who first published her poignant book on the fallen, 'When Heroes Die', in 2001. The book has been reprinted as part of the Centenary commemorations and a sample chapter is available to read on the website.

The website, which will continue to be populated during the Centenary period, has enabled the School to publish much of its extensive World War One archive material including original school registers, copies of school magazine, 'The Gresham' and details of each of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The site is interactive with a blog section where users can make comments and share their own stories and archive material.

More than 500 Old Greshamians fought for their country, leaving a lasting impact on the School and the surrounding community. It is hoped that the website will become a lasting tribute and a valuable resource for family history researchers, historians and school children. Sixth form pupil, Maddie Bailey, said: "Researching the lives of the men who went to fight in the First World War has been inspiring and we have been truly moved to learn about the profound effect that the War has had on our school. We've discovered that they all led ambitious and busy school lives, going on to sacrifice their lives for our country."

Fellow sixth former, Emma Dugdale, added: "The wealth of information that can be found on the website is truly fascinating and brings history to life in a way we have never experienced before."

The School was awarded £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) 'First World War: then and now' programme to create the website as part of its commemorations for the Centenary of the Great War. The HLF's programme has been set up to support projects that make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities.

Funding was also made available for the project by the Old Greshamian Club.

For more information about Gresham's history please contact the School Archivist Liz Larby at llarby@greshams.com or visit the Old Greshamian Club website, www.greshams.com/Old-Greshamian-Club.