



We Remember 2017/18

MPCT[™]

Motivational Preparation College for Training



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Managing Director's Foreword



I am honored to present to you our third book of remembrance dedicated to our five ex-students who paid the ultimate sacrifice. All were killed in action during the recent Iraq and Afghanistan wars. This publication demonstrates how each of our colleges paid their respects in their own way. By capturing and sharing the current students acts of remembrances, we help to ensure that this is an annual event where due care and attention is dedicated to our fallen heroes.

We have decided to focus our act of remembrance on the 11th of November working closely with the Royal British Legion (RBL). Wherever possible we played a part in their parades. We helped the RBL in whatever capacity we could from raising money to laying the Garden of Remembrance. We thank the staff and volunteers for being so generous with their time.

Not only is it important that we pay our respect but it must be an opportunity of learning for our current students. As a result of today's actions we will always remember.

R. Huw Lewis MBE
Managing Director, MPCT

We Will Remember Them

As with war throughout the ages, our Armed Forces continue to experience casualties almost every week and sadly there are still those giving their lives in the Service of their country today. Therefore the act of remembrance today is as important as it has always been. We are reminded of this through the words of the Laurence Binyon poem.



Private Craig Barber – 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh

- Aged 20 – died August 7th 2007
- Attended MPCT from May 2003 – August 2003
- Taking part in a night operation to counter indirect fire attacks in Basra
- Driving a Warrior vehicle and was killed by small arms fire
- From Ogmores Vale
- Joined 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh in 2004 – killed whilst on his second tour in Iraq
- He was a caring loving father to his son Bradley
- Loved playing chess
- Craig's Lieutenant Colonel described Craig as a dedicated soldier who was keen to deploy on operations in support of his mates and qualified as a Team Medic to be able to do so. Craig loved his role as a Warrior driver and looked after it diligently and was fiercely protective of it.
- Private Barber's Company Commander described Craig "as the epitome of the gentle giant, always ready for a chat, always eager to please, he was an extremely popular young man".



Sapper Connor Ray – 33 Engineer Regiment

- Aged 21 – died on 18th April 2012
- Attended MPCT from October 2007 – December 2007
- Died as a result of his injuries after being seriously hurt by an improvised bomb on 11 April 2012, the eve of his 21st birthday
- Joined the Corps of Royal Engineers in June 2009 and took up his role as an advanced searcher in 33 Engineer Regiment bomb disposal in 2010
- Sapper Ray was searching a compound previously used by insurgents in the Nad Ali district of central Helmand where he was injured.
- The MOD said during Sapper Ray's time in Afghanistan, he undertook a number of high risk searches which "undoubtedly saved numerous British and Afghan lives."
- His family said Connor was a "kind-hearted, good natured and amusing guy with a curious taste for 80's power ballads. He described himself as a warrior even though he was scared of spiders."
- Born in Southampton, Connor moved to Newport where he studied at MPCT in 2007.
- Over 500 people attended his funeral which was given full military honours.



L/Cpl Dane Elson – 1st Battalion Welsh Guards

- Aged 23 – died on 5th July 2009
- Attended MPCT from January 2004 – February 2004
- Killed whilst on patrol in Afghanistan as part of Operation Panchai Palang
- Dane, as Team Commander, was part of the Fire Support Group attached to The Light Dragoons Battle Group
- Killed instantly by an explosion from an improvised explosive device
- Born in Zimbabwe and lived in Bridgend
- Joined the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in 2004 when they were based at RAF St Athan near Cardiff
- Keen rugby player
- Had a very bright future ahead of him and stood out as a Guardsman destined for the higher ranks of the battalion
- Dane's Lieutenant Colonel described him as a talented and popular soldier who made a huge impact with his professionalism, drive and determination to take the fight to the enemy.
- Lance Corporal Elson's Battalion Second-in Command described Dane as "extremely fit and mentally very tough and his energy and enthusiasm made an immediate impact on his friends and fellow Welsh Guardsmen. Lance Corporal Elson lived his life with a very selfless ethos which inspired others".



Private James Prosser – 2nd Battalion Royal Welsh

- Aged 21 – died on 27th September 2009
- Attended MPCT from September 2005 – December 2005
- Died as a result of an explosion that happened during a vehicle patrol in the northern Helmand province of Afghanistan.
- Born in Caerphilly
- Joined the Army in July 2008 and after completing his infantry training at ITC Catterick, Private Prosser joined 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh in February 2009.
- He was a natural infanteer and relished his job
- He was selected for training as a Warrior infantry fighting vehicle driver, a role that he both enjoyed and excelled at
- Private Prosser's confidence and affable manner marked him out as one of the more popular of his peers
- Keen sportsman, member of Cwmbran Celtic Football Club and Fairwater Falcons Hockey Club
- A statement from Private Prosser's friends said "the amount of respect we have for you is indescribable, a true friend and a real hero forever. We all shared so many good memories with you and we can't believe you are not going to be with us anymore."
- Private Prosser's Lieutenant Colonel said "James had a boundless sense of humor and was a true character in every sense despite his relative young age. This brave Welsh Warrior will be sorely missed by so many of us".



Private Kyle Adams – Parachute Regiment

- Aged 21 – died on 6th August 2009
- Attended MPCT from May 2005 – May 2006
- From Cwmbran
- Killed with two comrades while undertaking a routine security patrol alongside Afghanistan National Security Forces. The vehicle they were traveling in was hit by an explosion followed by a small arms fire attack.
- His family paid the following tribute "Before his deployment, Private Adams said to his father "Dad, I'm not a soldier, I'm a Para."
- His father said, "He was a loving son, brother, uncle, nephew, grandson and boyfriend. He was the life and soul of any party, He has left a big hole and he will be sorely missed."
- Private Adam's Commanding Officer described him as "undemonstrative yet utterly professional, always ready for the next challenge. Kyle was a real team player and was a talented sportsman. Kyle gave his life for his fellow comrades and The Parachute Regiment."





MPCT Cardiff

The Cardiff learners helped the Royal British Legion plant crosses at the remembrance field in Cardiff Castle and the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony of the poppy field at the castle and also parade and do a log demonstration at the women's rugby match at Cardiff arms park.



MPCT Bridgend

The Bridgend learners sold poppies at two local Tesco outlets leading up to remembrance day. The learners then paraded at the Cenotaph in Bridgend on Armistice Day and laid wreaths for the fallen.

Remembrance

Alexander Brodie, MPC Eastbourne

All around me are wide eyed faces,
Fresh from life and wet behind the ears.
They do not know of the horrors we face.

Newly trained and brimming with enthusiasm,
How long can this tragic confidence live on?
They talk of storming the trenches,
They fantasise of 'sucking one' to a faceless enemy,
But I know the reality; I've seen the lifeless face,
I've felt his last breath as I've stolen his hope of home.

I remember my first time over the top,
Me and the lads would win the war in one push.
Fireworks like you couldn't imagine,
Never was our victory so majestically celebrated.
The fellas jumped with joy. Never have I witnessed men so high.
As our triumph faded and the fleeting night returned,
My friends lay down to sleep.
Our magnanimous push was all too much and it's here their story ends.

I'm alone and cold, hunger my only companion.
No longer do I relish the adrenaline; no longer do I wish to win.
Leave me to fester,
leave me to die.

Who are you to talk of family, how dare you talk of going home.
This war will not end by Christmas and my horrors will never end.

So heed my call young men, this horror never ends.
No longer can I think of home or the loved ones soon lost.
My home is in the trenches and the place I will forever rest.



MPCT Birmingham

MPC Birmingham learners have been busy selling poppies in the local region for the RBL.

On Remembrance Sunday, 6 learners attended the Remembrance Parade in Rubery, Birmingham. Mr Grimes and Mr Hughes had the duty of laying the MPC Wreath amongst other members of the local communities.



MPCT Bristol

The Bristol learners and staff went into Bristol city center to watch the service on Remembrance Sunday. The learners all showed up looking smart with uniform at a very high standard. Staff Hunt took the learners back to the center to view the parade where parents also attended. After the parade they had a photo taken and then discussed how they felt the day went. There was so much pride beaming from the learners and both staff members were very proud. The learners also attended Fairfield remembrance parade on Armistice Day itself.



MPCT Eastbourne

Throughout November the Military Preparation College Eastbourne learners volunteer to help support the Poppy Appeal. This year we raised money at Eastbourne Arndale Centre, Waitrose and Morrison's.



MPCT Bangor

MPCT Bangor students respectfully took the time this week to clean up the Bangor Cenotaph prior to the Remembrance Day commemorations. It is such an important event in our calendar year deserves our full attention and respect.

Staff and students together take great pride in ensuring that the Cenotaph and it's surrounding area are shown the respect the area deserves at a time when so many will be honouring and remembering those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.



MPCT Aldershot

The learners from the Aldershot center supported the Royal British Legion by selling poppies in Aldershot Town.



MPCT Gloucester

MPCT Gloucester proudly represent MPCT at Remembrance Sunday, with Mr Howe laying the reef.



MPCT Liverpool

Liverpool learners attended their festival of remembrance at the Cenotaph and laid an MPCT wreath. They were well networked and spoke to numerous veterans, thanking them and shaking their hands. Thousands of people attended the event in Liverpool at St George's Hall for remembrance and our college was extremely lucky to be part of it.



MPCT Isle of Wight

The students of the Isle of Wight MPC have been very busy selling poppies to the general public in Ryde.

For all their hard work and dedication, the students were presented with the RBL Affiliation Certificate by the President of the Ryde RBL, Mr. Brian Harris and the Chairman of the Ryde RBL Mr Terry Clarkson.



MPCT Wolverhampton

The students from Wolverhampton MPC paid their respects on Remembrance Day by taking part in a parade held at the Dutch War Graves in Jeffcock Cemetery in Wolverhampton. They were joined by soldiers from the Dutch Army that were also a part of the parade.

The RAF took control of the Parade, the cadet forces were in attendance (Army, sea, RAF cadets) the Royal British Legion and about 150 members of the public.



MPCT Swansea

Swansea learners were busy selling poppies at Morrisons and also at the Swansea National Pool.



MPCT Merthyr Tydfil

Merthyr Tydfil learners have been working along side the Royal British Legion selling poppies.



MPCT Portsmouth

Portsmouth learners paid their respects at the Remembrance Parade at The Guildhall Square.



MPCT Wrexham

Students from Wrexham MPC attended the Remembrance service in Rhostyllen, Wrexham on Sunday 12th November. The students were keen to show their support and respect for those who have given their lives. Remembrance is close to the hearts of all at the Military Preparation College.



The Motivation and Learning Trust

The Motivational Preparation College for Training (MPCT) has been actively engaged in the enhancement of life chances for young people for years. The success of the education and training strategies employed by MPCT have made an enormous difference to young people who may not have found their way easily into adulthood, employment and as a contributing member of society. It is apparent that a significant number of young people who enroll on the MPCT programme need additional financial and resource assistance in order to help meet their potential. Quite simply the motivation, support and encouragement they receive at MPCT is not always mirrored at home.



The formation of the Motivation & Learning Trust (MLT) young people's charity is designed to meet this need. MLT will take a proactive and decisive role in ensuring that young people within the MPCT family who need assistance get it. In exceptional circumstances the trustees will consider the needs of young people outside of this. We will do this in the following ways:

We know that some of our young people struggle to find safe and secure living environments. We will therefore provide support and Emergency Aid including ex-Gratia payments to those students of MPCT who require it in order to provide a safe and secure environment in the short term.

We know that some of our young people struggle to present themselves to best effect when seeking employment. They simply cannot afford clothing and the necessary personal effects to enhance their chances. We act as an enabler for young people who are or have been students of

MPCT in the form of practical assistance in order to enhance their life chances in the challenging arena of employment and to enable them to participate fully in society as responsible, independent and mature adults.

We will provide practical physical resources to enhance the opportunities of young people who are or have been students of MPCT on order to develop their skills and increase their participation within society and improve their employability.

For the public benefit we promote the extended education of students who are or have been students at MPCT in such ways as the trustees think fit, including by:

Providing their education by providing travel opportunities to undertake historical visits to significant battlefields and militarily historical venues.

Providing bespoke standalone educational opportunities as the trustees see fit in order to enhance the life chances of such students. We act as a resource in advancing the education of young people who are or have been students of MPCT under the age of 25 years (and exceptionally other young people who would benefit from assistance) by developing their mental, physical and moral capabilities through team orientated physical activities over and beyond the core curriculum.

MLT needs your help in order to achieve its aims. With your help we can and will make a difference in the formative stages of the lives of the young people with whom we work. For more information, please visit: www.mpct.co.uk/motivation-and-learning-trust

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