



St John's CofE VC School and Specialist Engineering College



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22nd June 2011: Today we have launched Vertical Tutoring at St John's. All students are now a member of one of four Houses: **Adams, Barker, Sparks and Wright**. The students voted for the names of the Houses, which are all named after men from Epping who lost their lives fighting for their country. While the school day still begins at 8:30 and ends at 3pm, the length of registration has now changed so that our afternoon registration lasts for 20 minutes. Forms are now organised with students from each year group and we are very excited about the potential for increased interaction between year groups and opportunity for targeted academic focus.

Georgie SPARKS was killed, along with another Royal Marine, in an attack in Afghanistan on 27 November, 2008 at the age of 19. Georgie, of 42 Commando Royal Marines was taking part in a foot patrol north-west of the town of Lashkar Gah in the southern area of Helmand Province when he and his comrade came under sustained enemy fire. They were attacked with rocket-propelled grenades while on the roof of a building and died from their injuries while being flown back to Camp Bastion. Georgie Sparks joined the Marines in 2006 and qualified as a sniper with 42 Commando. He won the coveted Commando Medal during training and his fellow marines said he was hard-working and professional. Lieutenant-Colonel Charlie Stickland, 42 Commando's commanding officer, said he was a man who excelled at his job.

Victor ADAMS, (Sapper 121st Field Company, Royal Engineers) Died 10th April 1916 aged 42. Victor Adams was born in Epping; he enlisted into the Royal Engineers in London in March 1915 as a Shoeing Smith and was posted to Ireland. He went to France on 5th October 1915 and died of pneumonia there in April 1916. On the first anniversary of his death his parents inserted the following notice in the West Essex Gazette: "In affectionate remembrance of our dear son Sapper V.E. Adams. RE, who died on active service April 9th 1916 and was interred in the cemetery, Gezaincourt, Somme, France. Sadly missed". Victor's father George died in 1921, and Victor is commemorated on his headstone in Epping Cemetery.

Horace BARKER (Deck Boy, SS Windsor Hall) Died 17th January 1918, aged 15. Horace was born in St John's Road, Epping. He enlisted in the Mercantile Marine and became an Apprentice Deck Boy on the SS Windsor Hall, a defensively armed merchantman of 3,693 tons. On 17th January 1918 the Windsor Hall was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U66 in the Mediterranean Sea, 45 miles north-west of Alexandria. The ship's Captain was taken prisoner, but Horace Barker was one of 27 crew members who lost their lives. He was presumed to have been drowned. At just 15 years of age he was the youngest of Epping's war dead.

Walter WRIGHT (Captain, Royal Army Service Corps) Died 1st January 1945, aged 30. Walter was born in Theydon Bois. He married Winifred Wilson in 1938, and they lived in Epping and he worked as manager of Brown's Garage in Loughton. He joined the Army as a Private four days before war was declared. Evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940, he returned to France soon after D-Day in charge of RASC workshop units, following the fighting through France, Belgium and Holland. He was at Arnhem, and was specially commended by his C.O. for his work there. Winifred received a field card from her husband together with a photograph of a Dutch friend and just one week later she received a telegram from the War Office telling her that he was dead.