



Community Assembly: Saluting NHS Staff

As we start the second week of our CCHS Remote School, it is right and proper to mark the extraordinary outpouring of gratitude that we witnessed up and down the land on Thursday evening.

I am sure, like me, you felt compelled to stand outside your home, or open a window, and join your neighbours in clapping, cheering, banging a pot or pan, or even playing a musical instrument, to create a communal celebration of NHS courage and fortitude. Two of my close neighbours are NHS professionals and they were visibly moved by this event – it was both humbling and a privilege to be part of it.

It struck me that in the face of this seemingly relentless virus, there was a dignified defiance on display on Thursday evening across the country; a determination to support one another in an act of collective reflection, and crucially, to orchestrate a 'thank you' to exceptional people, many of whom do not receive the remuneration they should, and to give a warning to this virus that our brilliant scientists and medics will succeed in developing a vaccine. As a teacher of History, I have studied and taught about war, revolution and nationalism – all manifestations of people turning on each other.

At the moment, we have an example of us, as a species, working collectively to combat and overcome a microscopic enemy. As we give thanks to NHS staff, and all those who are volunteering and working to support a host of inspiring mutual aid projects, we dedicate ourselves to a School, whose ambition is to educate and empower a community of exceptional young women, enabling them to think for themselves and to act for others.

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