

Haileybury Turnford

Ambition · Pride · Success

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Dear Parent/Carer



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

*Learning from genocide -
for a better future*

Stand Together – Holocaust Memorial Day 2020

This year we marked the national occasion of Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday 27th January. We promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) – the international day on 27 January to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

27 January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

We were privileged to be able to welcome to our school and Year 7 students, a Holocaust Survivor; Dr Agnes Kaposi. Dr Kaposi was born in Hungary and started school at the outbreak of World War II. Dr Kaposi's presentation to Year 7 students explained about how this day is an occasion to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution and in the genocides which followed. She explained about how many of her family were murdered in the Holocaust, together with over half a million Hungarian Jews.

Dr Kaposi brought to life the meaning and significance of the HMD by explaining the tragedy she and her family experienced by sharing some of her personal stories with our students. Her message to our students was very clear, she encouraged all of our students and staff to think about how each of us can make a real difference to our community within school and beyond by acting in a kind and compassionate way each day to others. Dr Kaposi donated a signed copy of her book for our School Library; Yellow Star-Red Star, Agnes Kaposi as well as a personal copy of Nick Hornby's, Fever Pitch and a Penguin Modern Classic which she thoroughly recommended for our students to read.

During Personal Development time in Tutor sessions this week students learned about how the Holocaust threatened the fabric of civilisation, and genocide must still be resisted every day. Students discussed and understood about how our world often feels fragile and vulnerable and therefore we cannot be complacent. Students learned about how even in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all.

The message we give to our students is that HMD is for everyone. Each year across the UK, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future. Through raising awareness of HMD in assemblies and Tutor sessions we know students learn more, empathise more and do more.

Students learned about those who endured genocide, and about how we can honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition.

If you are interested in learning more about the HMD and would like to understand how this event is commemorated please visit the website below:

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/why-mark-hmd/>

If you have any concerns or queries relating to any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Assistant or Year Achievement Coordinator.

Mrs M Goodes
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