



22 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Holocaust Memorial Day 2021

Every year at MECE, students and staff mark Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January). This year a programme of events has been organised with the theme “*Be the Light in the Darkness*” as the focus point.

The Holocaust was a defining event in human history; its legacies continue to shape the modern world whilst questions it raises about human behaviour have universal relevance. Holocaust Memorial Day can therefore encourage us to reflect on our own actions and responsibilities, both as individuals and as a society – a clear link to the British values of individual freedom and mutual respect.

The theme “*Be the Light in the Darkness*” invites us to reflect on Jewish resistance during the Holocaust; rescue, justice, the legacy of Holocaust survivors and the action of educating the next generation to carry these stories forward. Each of these, in their own way, relates back to the theme. This Holocaust Memorial Day we pay tribute to these opportunities for *light in the darkness*. We also remember that for most, the story of the Holocaust was not the story of successful resistance or rescue, or of survival, and that justice was not served.

The Holocaust is a sensitive and challenging topic, but I am hoping all students will be able to participate in the following events:

Tuesday 26th January:

During tutor time there will be a virtual assembly. This assembly will be suitable for all students and will introduce what the Holocaust was and the theme for this year. At the end of this assembly a candle will be lit in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

9.45 – 11.00 **Students in Years 9-11** will be attending a live survivor webcast where they will hear the testimony of Eve Kugler BEM. There will be a pre-talk presentation to help prepare students to listen to the testimony and a debriefing session afterwards. Instructions on how to log in to access the webcast will be sent to all students in Years 9-11. **The live webcast is suitable for students in Year 9 or above.**

11.30 – 12.20 Students in **Years 9-11** will be joining the **HMD2021 Google Classroom (code **zxp6luy**)** to complete a reflection activity.

Normal classes for Years 9-11 will resume at 12.30 (period 4)

Thursday 28th January:

During tutor time a House photo competition will be launched. The best photos will be selected to form part of a school exhibition with prizes awarded to winners in KS3 and KS4

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 encourages everyone to reflect on the dark depths that humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to ‘*be the light*’ before, during and after the genocide.

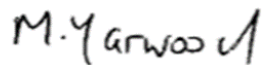
The photographs you enter into the competition should celebrate the people, groups, places and objects which bring you, and others, light in times of darkness.

Simply take a photo on your phone or digital camera and upload it to the **HMD2021 Google Classroom** to be in with a chance of having your photo featured in the exhibition. You will need to join the classroom using the code **zxp6luv**.

The competition closes on **Monday 22nd February 2021**.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to receiving your photo entries.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Yarwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a stylized 'Y'.

Mark Yarwood
Curriculum Leader for Humanities