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17 January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place annually on 27 January. It is a commemoration day in the United Kingdom dedicated to the remembrance of those who suffered in the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution, and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. It was first held in January 2001 and has been on the same date every year since. The chosen date is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp by the Soviet Union in 1945, the date also chosen for the International Holocaust Remembrance Day and some other national Holocaust Memorial Days. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 is **For a Better Future**. There are many things we can all do to create a better future. We can speak up against Holocaust and genocide denial and distortion; we can challenge prejudice; we can encourage others to learn about the Holocaust and more recent genocides. This can be an opportunity for people to come together, learn both from and about the past, and take actions to make a better future for all.

In school we have marked Holocaust Memorial Day, through a series of virtual House Assemblies. The Theme of the Assembly asked us to consider, what we all can do to help create a better future. The assembly will be followed up in tutor time where the Thought of the Week will reflect this year's theme the **For a Better Future**.

There is an opportunity for us to listen to a first-hand testimony from a Holocaust survivor, Mala Tribich MBE, on Wednesday 22 January. This is being organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust and is being live-streamed to schools across the country. All Year 9 students will listen to this Holocaust survivor during their Period 2 lesson.

To remember those who were killed in the Holocaust and in other genocides, you could light a candle in a window (if you are able to do so safely) at 8pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January to bring in the light.

If you would like to find out more about Holocaust Memorial Day, please visit the official website: [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Mr G Marshall-James & Mr L Jones