



1 November 2016

Ref: SH/KB

Dear Parent/Carer

On July 2nd 2016, one of the few remaining witnesses of the events of the Holocaust passed away. Elie Wiesel remains both a beacon of hope and a sharp reminder to those of us who are fortunate not to have to endure such horrors. That being said, still we live in a society which all too often turns a blind eye to prejudice and permits injustice on a daily basis. We continue to live in a world which all too readily accepts that whilst terror still slips into the world, it is often beyond our reach and so out of our power to challenge it.

In taking part in this Tour of Remembrance, you are becoming Ambassadors for Holocaust Education. As Survivors pass on, they leave us with the task of ensuring that we never forget what mankind is capable of doing to one another, lest we forget. In the words of Elie Wiesel, *"Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. The opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference."* This is your time to make a committed stand against the dangers and terrors of prejudice and persecution. This is your time to stand up and protest.

With this in mind, departure for our tour is rapidly approaching and so I am inviting you to a Parent and Ambassador Information Evening in the School Main Hall from 18:30 – 19:00 on **Monday 28th November**. I will be able to give clearer outlines and times of our itinerary, what to expect, what to pack (and what not to pack), what to wear (and what not to wear) and to answer any unanswered questions you may have about the Tour.

Between now and then I would like to encourage all students to watch the film Schindler's List. I appreciate that many have seen clips at school, but to watch it in one sitting with family or friends is crucial as we shall visit many of the sites portrayed in the film, from the Ghetto, through the factory and to three of the camps. Although a film, the images will help you to visualise and, therefore, empathise with what we shall see. Please also encourage each other to study further any books or films so that you have a clearer vision of what to expect and so in turn understand it in a more meaningful way. Please find below a list of recommended literature and media to explore.

In the New Year, I hope to invite a Holocaust Survivor into the school, as we do each year and I shall let you know in good time of details of the event should you wish to join us.

In the meantime, please do get in touch if you have any further queries at all.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Hopkins  
Teacher of Ethics and Philosophy

*“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.” Elie Wiesel*

**Research to choose from before we travel:**

**Films**

Schindler’s List  
The Grey Zone  
Son of Saul

**Books**

*Forgotten Voices of the Holocaust* by Lyn Smith  
*Auschwitz: A Doctor’s Eye Witness Account* by Miklos Nyiszli

**Websites:**

<http://www.het.org.uk/> The UK’s leading light on Holocaust Education  
<https://www.ushmm.org/> The Holocaust Museum in the USA  
<http://auschwitz.org/en/> Auschwitz-Birkenau museum homepage

There is also a provocative but stunning permanent exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

The more that you research, the more you will get from the tour and why not get together with others on the tour and explore together?