



Holocaust Memorial Day at Highlands School

Holocaust Memorial Day

- 27 January marks the anniversary of the liberation of **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, the largest Nazi death camp. It was liberated on **27th January 1945**.
- Holocaust Memorial Day encourages the importance of remembrance by a world scarred by genocide. This means the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group.
- By raising awareness we can prevent ignorance which leads to the repetition of flawed historical events.



What is Holocaust Memorial Day?

- On **Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD)** we remember the six million Jewish people who were murdered by the Nazis, and all victims of Nazi persecution, including Roma, gay and disabled people.
- The holocaust threatened the fabric of civilization, and the world said, '**never again**'. But genocides have continued to take place across the world.
- **Genocide does not just happen.** It starts with divisive language and people being targeted because of their identity.
- We cannot be complacent, prejudice must be challenged by us all.
- On Holocaust Memorial Day, people come together to learn from genocide and create a better future.



Nazi Germany's role in the Holocaust

- The Nazis were a political party voted into Germany from 1933 to 1945, ruling as a dictatorship.
- They were anti-semitic, which meant they targeted the Jewish community, and blamed them for problems in society.
- During the 1930s and in WWII (1939-1945), the Nazis invaded many European countries, such as Czechoslovakia, Austria and Poland.
- They inhumanely sentenced Jewish people to **ghettos** and **concentration camps**.

Concentration camps

Camps created by the Nazis for the persecution of Jewish people and other prisoners.

What do these mean?

Ghetto

A Jewish quarter of a city with intent of segregation.



Lessons from Auschwitz Project

Day trip to Poland

- On Thursday 13th October 2022, Highlands students visited Poland as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz Project.
- They visited the town of Oświęcim, and the Nazi concentration camps of Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II Birkenau.
- A few days later, they heard the testimony of a Holocaust survivor, Janine Webber.

Oświęcim

- Before the war, Jewish people made up around 55% of the population. Today no Jewish people live in Oświęcim.
- In 1939, the Germans invaded Poland, Oświęcim was renamed Auschwitz.



What did students learn from their visit?

- Before WWII, life in Oświęcim was very normal.
- Before the Nazi invasion, Jewish and non-Jewish people lived harmoniously together in Oświęcim.



Auschwitz I - Concentration Camp

- This is a photo taken by our students of the Auschwitz Gate.
- 'ARBEIT MACHT FREI' at the top of the gate translates to 'Work sets you free'.
- Nazis used this message to create the false impression that concentration camps, were 'redistribution' areas or housing villages.



The Book of Names

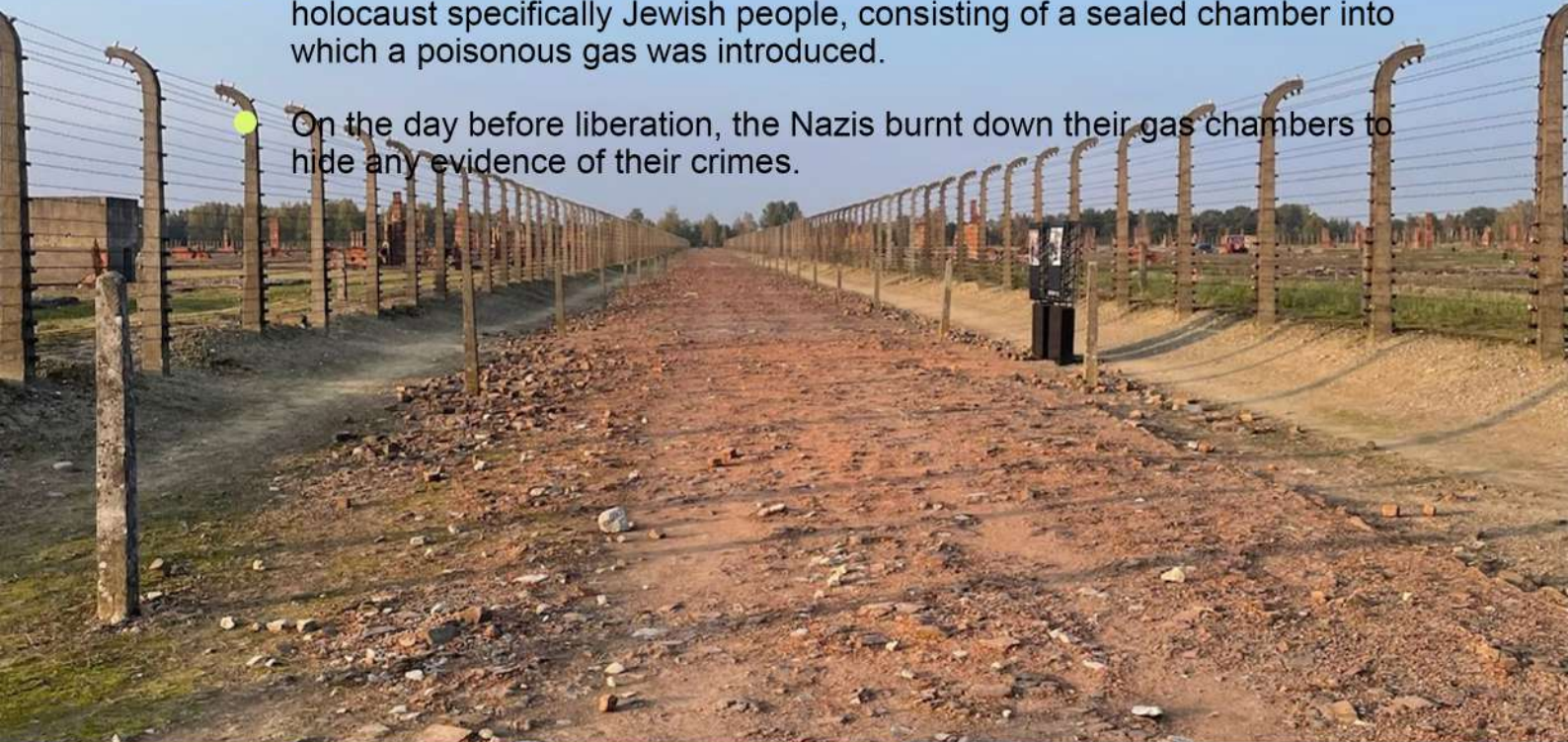
- The Book of Names at Auschwitz, is a book that names of all of the Jewish victims of the Holocaust that are on record.
- There are over 4 million names of Jewish victims recorded in The Book of Names.
- There are many more victims of the holocaust that were not recorded.





Auschwitz II Birkenau

- This photo shows what Auschwitz Birkenau looks like now.
- The gas chambers were the central aspect of the concentration camp.
- Gas chambers were used for killing humans with gas, in the case of the holocaust specifically Jewish people, consisting of a sealed chamber into which a poisonous gas was introduced.
- On the day before liberation, the Nazis burnt down their gas chambers to hide any evidence of their crimes.



Janine Webber

A Holocaust survivor

- Janine Webber gives talks of recalling her experience in a Polish ghetto.
- She continues to teach the importance of being kind to others.
- She explained the tragedy of her seven year old brother being killed, while she was allowed to live.





Reflections

- It is important to continue to have conversations about the Holocaust, so that we can all do our parts in making sure history does not repeat itself.
- All the victims had individual lives and families who are still feeling the effects of the holocaust today.
- The world must never let this happen again.

Why does the Holocaust matter today?

- Since the 2020 lockdowns, there has been a rise in hate crimes reported in London.
- More than one million members of the Muslim Uyghur community in China have been unjustly forced into 're-education' camps. This shows that persecution of groups of people based on race or religion is still happening today.
- Anti-semitism, a form of racism and discrimination, still exists today. All forms of racism, discrimination and hate crimes are unacceptable and has a significantly negative impact on the lives of victims.





Core DARE values within our school community

Determination

To have the determination to challenge views and behaviours. To overcome obstacles and reach new heights to create a brighter future for ourselves and our community.

Aspiration

To be aspirational students by believing in our own and each other's abilities to overcome challenges.

Respect

As a community, we strive to break any stereotypes and respect all others, as we all come from different backgrounds, and we all deserve equal chances.

Equality

It is important to treat others equally, inside and outside of school, to allow us to combat all forms of discrimination.



**Without memory there is no culture.
Without memory, there would be no civilization,
no society, no future.**

Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor

