



Holocaust survivor visit to Highlands School

Mala Tribich MBE

Holocaust survivor



- Mala is a Holocaust survivor from Poland.
 - Mala was born Mala Helfgott in 1930 in Piotrków Trybunalski, Poland.
 - She lived during WWII and experienced the ghettos and concentration camps set up as part of Hitler's plan to exterminate Jewish people.
 - Mala experienced first hand the horrors of the Nazi's actions to exterminate all Jewish people, during WWII.
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- Mala has lived in the United Kingdom since 1947.
 - Today, Mala has two children and three grandchildren.
 - Whilst her children were growing up, Mala studied and gained a degree in Sociology from the University of London.
 - Mala has survived this experience and travels around the world sharing her testimony.
 - We are all privileged to have Mala visit Highlands School to share her survivor's experience with us all.



Why is Mala's experience important to us?

Our year 10 students have learnt about WWII and the devastating impact it had on the world, and in particular Jewish people, six million of whom were murdered by the Nazis. Hearing from a real life Holocaust survivor, is an opportunity to have history brought to life.

Hearing from a Holocaust survivor helps us all to:

Understand that anti-semitism is a form of racism, and like all racism, can have serious and life threatening consequences.

Develop empathy and compassion for the suffering of others.

Understand the importance of human rights and equality and how these can be so easily taken away from us.

Learn more about WWII and the Holocaust.

Think about how evil and suffering affects people's faith or makes their faith stronger.

Understand the importance of using our right to vote, to vote in politicians who believe in equality.

Feel empowered to do our bit to create a safe and equal world.



Mala Tribich's visit

It was an honour to welcome Mala Tribich to our school today. Mala Tribich is a survivor of the Holocaust and a powerful speaker who shares her story with audiences around the world. Her visit to Highlands School was part of our ongoing efforts to educate our students about the atrocities of the Holocaust and promote empathy, tolerance, and understanding.

During her visit, Mala shared her experiences with our students and staff. She began by describing her childhood in Poland, where she lived a happy and carefree life until the Nazis invaded the country in 1939. She spoke of the horrors she and her family experienced during the Holocaust, including the forced relocation to a ghetto, the separation from her parents and siblings, and the brutal conditions in the concentration camp. She reveals her 'identity was stripped in all forms', and 'without identity, you lose hope, and without hope there is no survival', and that was the experience of many Jewish people during the Holocaust.

She miraculously survived the death camp and later settled in the UK, where she has devoted her life to educating young people about the horrors of the Holocaust.

Despite the unimaginable trauma she endured, both mentally and physically, Mala's inspirational message to our students was 'Don't be a bystander to injustice, do not tolerate it and do something about it. Have high standards and morals and use those morals to shape the future and make the world a better place'.

Mala's visit was a profound and meaningful experience for our school. We are grateful for her willingness to share her story with us and inspire us to be better human beings. We will continue to honour her legacy by educating our students about the Holocaust and promoting tolerance and understanding in our community and beyond.





Mala Tribich's visit





What we learnt from this experience

Key terms	
World War II	<p>The global conflict between 1939-45, started by Hitler, Chancellor of Germany.</p> <p>The vast majority of the world's countries fought either against the Nazis (known as the allied powers) or with the Nazis (known as the axis powers).</p>
Nazis	<p>The political party who governed Germany between 1933-45. They were led by the dictator Adolf Hitler. The Nazis had racist extremist views. They wanted to take over the world and exterminate all people who did not fit their view on the 'perfect human'. This meant killing all Jewish people, disabled people, gay people, gypsies and anyone who did not follow their Nazi views.</p>
Holocaust	<p>This is the name given to the murder of six million Jewish people during WWII. Millions of gay, disabled people and gypsies were also murdered. Jewish people often use the word 'Shoah' instead of Holocaust.</p>
Ghettos	<p>These were small areas that Jewish people were forced to live in. They had their homes, money, jobs and possessions taken from them.</p>
Concentration camps	<p>A place in which large numbers of Jewish people were imprisoned, with inhumane and dehumanising treatment. People were starved, given harsh punishments and forced to harsh labour. Many died in the camps from starvation or being overworked, others were murdered or were sent to extermination camps.</p>
Extermination camps	<p>A place where Jewish people were sent to be killed, usually in large ovens known as gas chambers.</p>



Jewish life before WWII

- There were around 9.5 million Jewish people in Europe in 1933.
- Approximately 66% of the European Jewish community were murdered during the Holocaust.
- Poland was home to the largest Jewish population in Europe.
- Approximately 3.3 million Jewish people lived in Poland in 1933.
- After WWII, there were only around 350,000 Jewish people left in Poland.
- Jewish people lived and worked in Europe as any other citizens before 1933. They were proud to be German/ French/Polish etc.

