

Holocaust Memorial Day 27th January 2020

Monday 27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day. A time to reflect on those lost to prejudice and cruelty during World War 2, and in other genocides all around the world. Three students were invited to represent King Harold Academy in a community memorial event at Epping Forest Museum, and to take part in the service.

We began our day by learning about the young boys and girls who came to live at Holmhurst after they were liberated from Theresienstadt concentration camp. Learning all about these young people, seeing their photographs and hearing about their hardships gave us a greater connection to the memorial that was to come.



Our students played a vital role in helping to write the names of these survivors on stones. During an event accompanied by Councillor Richard Bassett, local Rabbi's representing the Jewish community, relatives of the holocaust survivors, and other members of the Waltham Abbey community, a new tree was planted to symbolise hope, and the strength and resilience of these survivors. Our students then placed their memorial stones around the tree. The service is one which will not be forgotten, and in the words of museum director Catherine Hammond, "[the students] were all a real credit to themselves and the school".

If you get the chance, visit the Epping Forest Museum and see the exhibit created by Ellis Spencer which opens in May (The Boys: Holocaust survivors in the Epping Forest District), about these extraordinary people. Make sure to visit the courtyard and see for yourself the names of the survivors who came to England with nothing but the clothes on their backs, and with courage, appreciation and strength, built their lives, some of them here in Epping Forest.

Jodie Grove

"The day was very educational and taught me more than I knew. It opened my eyes as we found out that refugees were very closely linked to the area."

Patryk

"It helped me understand what actually happened to survivors from the concentration camps after their liberation [from concentration camps]."

Charlie

"We learnt about events that happened during the holocaust and why they were important for people with Jewish beliefs"

