



Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy is one of only a few Holocaust Beacon Schools in the U.K. and, as such, this week has been highly significant in the life of our academy.

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, every pupil in years 9, 10 and 11 watched a live webcast from Holocaust survivor, Eve Kugler BEM, who was 7 years old on the day of Kristallnacht in 1938. Her webcast was truly engaging and pupils were grateful for this special occasion.

*"Both T and J spoke about this over lunch-both had found it extremely interesting. I think they were struck by the fact that they have heard the story direct from a survivor. It somehow made it all very 'real' for them and what they have learnt and read about this became less of words and fact, and became the truth in a way. We have added a trip to Auschwitz to our 'list' for things we want to do after the pandemic. Thank you for providing them with this opportunity."*

In the meantime, pupils in Years 7 and 8 took part in live lessons completing a number of tasks linked to Holocaust Memorial Day. This included them starting out on their Foundation Stones.



Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January was the official Holocaust Memorial Day where we focused on all those victims of genocide from the last century and nowadays. The whole school was led in worship by Mr Burt from the Humanities Department which focused on many aspects of genocide and the need for forgiveness. Our Christian values lie at the heart of everything we do at Ian Ramsey – Joy, Hope, Forgiveness, Wisdom and Perseverance – and pupils frequently tell us in surveys that they feel a need to show respect for others, no matter their race, creed or colour.

As the theme this year was 'Light in the Darkness', the staff and pupils took part in a candlelit vigil at 8.00 pm that day. Let us hope that our candles can be a true beacon of light and hope for the generations to come and never lose sight of what has been.

***We say together***  
**Let us commit to seek a more peaceful world,**  
**where all are valued and none are excluded,**  
**Where justice and mercy flow like rivers**  
**Where relationships are built on love and acceptance, not fear and intolerance**  
**And where we all recognise our part in bringing that peace. Amen**

Our sincere thanks to Ms Dodd for organising all of the above. Her hard work has been truly rewarded and recognised by staff and pupils alike.

*"It ran so smoothly! 😊 It was a well worthwhile presentation; the theme was perfect 'be a light in the darkness'. We all understood how we could/needed to do this today! Year 7 loved the fact they could go away, paint their pebble, design a picture or paint wood/tiles . . . We then returned and used the time to help each other to share what we'd produced in google classroom so I could see pupils presenting on their screens to help others." – Mrs Watson (Maths Dept.)*