



1st February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Religious Studies Department – Holocaust Topic

As you may be aware your son is studying the Holocaust in RE: if you are interested in what he has done and is going to do the outlines of the lessons and PowerPoint files we use are in the Year 9 RE Folder on SharePoint, which he will have access to.

In a few weeks his main piece of work will be to produce a ‘response’ to the Holocaust. The form this takes is largely up to him, though obviously guided by us to make sure he is using appropriate materials and working on something suitable. It may be that he chooses to read a book – like Michael Rosen’s ‘The Missing’ (there are copies of this in the library) or Anne Frank’s Diary – or to do some extra historical research, produce a poem, piece of music, or piece of art.

In order to help with this, we sometimes show selected extracts from films about the Holocaust, including Steven Spielberg’s film ‘Schindler’s List’ (rated 15), in class. Obviously, these address a hard-hitting topic in a powerful way, but we have used them with Year 9 students before and think the work we do helps to put what they show into context. With any materials we use we try to introduce them carefully and give students the opportunity to opt out if they wish to.

I hope this meets with your approval. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me (g.bloor@vcj.sch.je), or your son’s RE teacher, and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Bloor
Head of RE and Philosophy

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