



Volume 2 | Issue 15

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## SCHOOL THAT MATTERS: RESPONDING TO THE HOLOCAUST WITH HOPE AND FAITH

This week in Assembly we have honoured the memory of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. We do this every year and with each passing year it becomes more and more important that we observe this day. The act of remembering ensures that there is less likelihood that we will repeat the horrors of the past. There are those who will claim wrongly that the Holocaust did not happen and many more who say that they are not aware of it, this just makes it all the more important that our children are educated in the truth of history.

Holocaust Memorial Day falls on January 27th, because that was the day in 1945 when Allied troops entered perhaps the most infamous Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and liberated it. What they found there began to expose to the world the terrors of Hitler's 'final solution.' Of course, genocide has occurred across the world repeatedly since 1945 – humans do not learn as quickly as we like to think we do. In the assembly I told each year group of the experience of my own family, some of whom were German Jews, victims of the Holocaust and, subsequently, refugees.

There are enough very recent examples of genocide and 'ethnic cleansing' that it would be easy to conclude that we cannot overcome the worst of our nature. However, our response, especially as Catholics, to suffering and injustice must always be one of hope, of action driven by faith.

That hope is to be found in our school and particularly in our young people. As Nelson Mandela observed, 'Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.' A good Catholic education encourages questioning and critical thinking; inspires young people to imagine what the lives of others must be like and fosters empathy; prompts them to use their voice to speak for the weak and vulnerable, to stand up for injustice. Quite simply, going to school and getting an education in skills, knowledge and values is a very effective defence against the injustices of the world such as genocide and Holocaust.

Our faith teaches us that human life is sacred and that every life has equal value and dignity. Those who argue otherwise are in direct opposition to important values that bind us and others together. These values of human respect and dignity go far beyond our Church and our faith, they have been adopted by the UN and many governments. They underpin our support, as a school community, of the poor, the refugee and immigrant or the marginalised.

It is more important than ever that we are reminded of the greater purpose of school and learning and that our young people are able to go out into the world as beacons of justice and inclusivity.

**Ben Davis**

*Headteacher*

# CALENDAR

## Year 11 Art trip to Blackpool

Monday 3rd February

## Year 11 Mocks begin

Monday 3rd February

## Year 9 Options Information Evening

Thursday 13th February

## Close for Half-Term Break

Friday 14th February at 3:15pm

## Re-open for Staff and Pupils

Monday 24th February at 8:39am

## 70th Anniversary Mass

Wednesday 26th February 6:00pm

# YEAR GROUP LEADERSHIP



## Year 7

**Year Manager:** Mr Healey

*(Senior Leader: Mrs Johnston)*



## Year 8

**Year Manager:** Mr Marshall

*(Senior Leader: Mr Jordan)*



## Year 9

**Year Manager:** Mrs Vincent

*(Senior Leader: Mr Jones)*



## Year 10

**Head of Year:** Miss Moore

*(Senior Leader: Mrs Tulloch)*

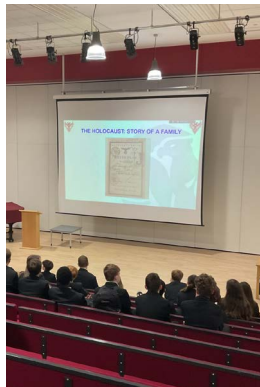


## Year 11

**Head of Year:** Mr. Pemberton

*(Senior Leader: Miss O'Leary)*

# HOLOCAUST - MEMORIAL ASSEMBLIES



## ART FOCUS

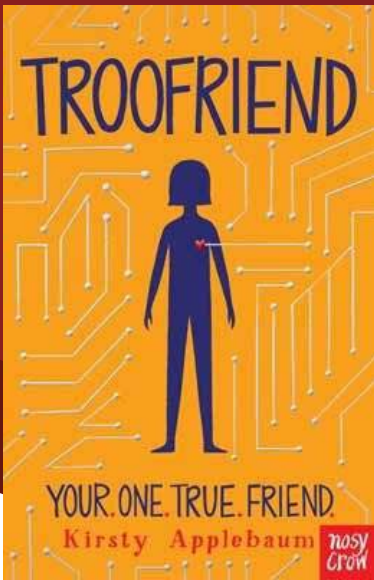
An experimental portraiture drawing by Lillie Mai Year 9.

# YEAR 11 FOOTBALL

Well done to our Year 11 team of superstars who battled in a tough game last night to win 3-2 against tough opponents. This win now means that they are in the quare finals of the Greater Manchester Cup. Well done boys, we are so proud of you!







# BOOK OF THE WEEK

**TrooFriend by Kirsty Applebaum.**

TrooFriend | BookTrustSarah's not impressed when her mum buys her a state-of-the-art android best friend called Ivy. Soon, though, she realises that Ivy could really impress her classmates (and there are other upsides, too, like getting Ivy to tidy her room...)

But worrying reports start emerging from the TrooFriend factory that the androids might actually have feelings - and if Ivy is just a robot, then why is she scared of the dark, and why does she want to take some of Sarah's things for herself?

Told from Ivy's point of view, TrooFriend is an original and fascinating exploration of artificial intelligence that feels all too relevant. The novel tackles tricky moral questions about human (and android) rights and what actually makes us human, weaving in highly relatable themes of friendship and fitting in at school.

## SUBJECT FOCUS:

### Imperial War Museum Trip

This week some of our Year 9 students had the opportunity to attend the Imperial War Museum on a History Trip in which they took part in an engaging and insightful workshop about life in Nazi Germany. The Pupils had the valuable experience of handling historical objects and sources of individuals who had lived under Nazi Rule and they were then given the opportunity to curate their own exhibit of an individual. The students dealt with this complex topic in a very mature manner and they impressed with their confident presentation skills and prior knowledge of the topic. The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity for this hand-on learning which really helped to tell the stories of individuals during the Holocaust in a meaningful and poignant way.



## MATHS FOCUS:

### Puzzle Club

Solving problems, one piece at a time! Our Year 7 students are really enjoying puzzle club each week, Mr Knowles is the current chess champion and looks forward to taking on a new challenger next week!







ST AMBROSE BARLOW  
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN  
CELEBRATING OUR

70<sup>TH</sup>

ANNIVERSARY MASS  
CELEBRATED BY BISHOP JOHN ARNOLD

◆  
WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6:00PM  
◆

ST LUKE'S RC CHURCH, SALFORD M6 7WR  
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS