



## Message from Kevin McKellar

### Holocaust Memorial Week

We have spent a long time thinking about what we wanted to do to make this a memory that society never forgets. Assemblies are planned and we have student performances going on. More poignantly, we have asked the students to write with a sense of empathy in relation to the victims of the holocaust. We hope to be able to share some of the writing with you all when the students have worked on their drafts and re-drafts. They are all taking it extremely seriously and I'm already impressed by the level of maturity and the fact that so many of our students have gone on to conduct their own research.

There is a simple quote from Primo Levi "Even in this place one can survive, and therefore one must want to survive, to tell the story, to bear witness; and that to survive we must force ourselves to save at least the skeleton, the scaffolding, the form of civilization. We are slaves, deprived of every right, exposed to every insult, condemned to certain death, but we still possess one power, and we must defend it with all our strength for it is the last – the power to refuse our consent."

And of course so many of our students are familiar with Anne Frank. Here is just one extract from her diary. "I long to ride a bike, dance, whistle, look at the world, feel young and know that I'm free, and yet I can't let it show. Just imagine what would happen if all eight of us were to feel sorry for ourselves or walk around with the discontent clearly visible on our faces. Where would that get us?" (December 24, 1943).

Have a reflective and peaceful week.

Kevin McKellar

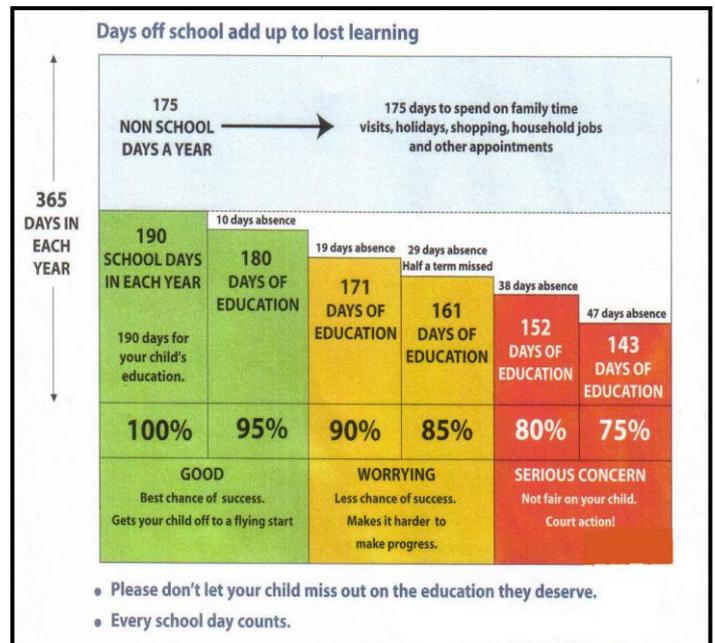
### Attendance

Please read the note below from Caroline Martin, our Attendance Officer. We are extremely worried about the number of unauthorised absences. We see it as an important child protection issue for the school to address. We need to know exactly where all students have been during their absence. We need to make you all aware that parents can be fined if they cannot account for the whereabouts of their child. If you get a phone call from Caroline Martin this week then please respond as a matter of urgency.

Kevin McKellar

If a student is prevented from attending school by reason of sickness or unavoidable cause, it is the responsibility of the parent to notify the school of the student's absence. This should be by telephone on the first day of absence and confirmed in writing. Parents should avoid, if possible, making medical or dental appointments for their child during school hours.

Caroline Martin - Attendance Officer



### Careers Fair

On Tuesday 5th February we will host our first careers fair. Already confirmed is a presence from SOAS, Middlesex University, BT, British Gas, Cosmopolis Music, Institute of Contemporary Music, British Psychological Association, STEMNET and City University among others.

While this is all great, we would still like further input from anyone who is interested in coming in and talking to our students. If you would like to do so then please drop me an email: [eganj@hendonschool.co.uk](mailto:eganj@hendonschool.co.uk)

John Egan, IAG Co-ordinator

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January - Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February		
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 12 & 13 Examinations PSHEE Group	Period 5
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Examination PSHEE Group Year 11 Maths Intervention Year 11 basketball vs Whitefield (away) Year 8 basketball vs St James Sports Leaders Inclusive Training - Copthall School	Period 1 3.40 - 4.40 pm After school After school 4-6 pm
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	PA Exam (Hall) PSHEE Groups Year 13 Maths Intervention Year 9 girls basketball (Sports Hall) Year 11 basketball vs Mill Hill	All Day Period 3 & 5 3.40 - 4.40 pm After School After School
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Year 12 Biology Trip PSHEE Group Middlesex Schools cross country (Harrow School) All girls netball training (Sports Hall) 6 <sup>th</sup> Form football vs JCoss (away) Year 7 basketball vs St James (home) <b>Year 9 Parents' Evening</b>	All Day Period 4 11 am After School After School After School 4-7 pm
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 12 Psychology Trip Albert Hall Trip	All Day PM

## National Citizen Service – The “challenge”

I am delighted to let you know that this term students in Year 11 and 12 will be given the opportunity to sign up to The Challenge - an exciting, unique opportunity which connects young people from different backgrounds across London, builds confidence and inspires them to make a positive impact in their local area. Students in Year 11 and 12 have already had an assembly to explain the programme. Some Year 11 parents spoke to Ruth Tedros at the parents' evening and she will be in school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February to speak with students and will be able to meet parents between 3.30pm and 4.30pm.

The Challenge Network is the country's leading provider of NCS (National Citizen Service), a government-funded programme. They deliver a part-residential programme which begins with 3 challenges that take place over 15 days, with breaks in between, after exams in the summer.

The first two parts are residential, with all meals, kit and accommodation provided. The first challenge encourages teams to develop leadership and teamwork skills, create friendships and build confidence by working with some of the best outdoor instructors in the UK. During the second challenge, young people stay in their own room in university accommodation and working with industry professionals, gain new skills in an area they are passionate about e.g. media or music. The final challenge gives the young people the unique opportunity to design their own project, which they then put into action over four weekends (one day per weekend) in the autumn.

On completion of the programme, the young people graduate during a formal ceremony, whereby they automatically become members of The Challenge Society, with access to a wide range of events, activities and exciting opportunities.

The Challenge Network asks parents for a contribution of just £50, with a discounted price of **£35** if the payment is made online before **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**. The remainder of the £1,500 cost of running the programme is covered by the support of partners and government funding. The Challenge also provide bursaries which can be applied for online.

You can visit [www.the-challenge.org](http://www.the-challenge.org) for more information about the programme, or contact Ruth Tedros, the local School Relationship Manager, at [ruth.tedros@the-challenge.org](mailto:ruth.tedros@the-challenge.org) or on 07785 627 458.

I highly recommend this unique and valuable opportunity, those students who attended last year spoke very highly of the scheme, I hope you will encourage your child to take part.

Noelle Doona - Director of Student and Community Development