



Parent E-Bulletin – Spring Term Week Commencing 22nd January 2024

Holocaust Memorial Day

On Tuesday 23rd there will be a livestreamed conversation with a holocaust survivor organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. This will take place in the school day during period 2, I am writing to inform you about the details of the speaker and with some guidance to following discussions on this.

The survivor we are honoured to hear from is Hedi Argent MBE. Hedi was born in Vienna in 1929. Both her parents came from Czechoslovakia but chose to settle in Austria after the First World War. Her father was in Russia during the revolution.

Hedi's father was a defence lawyer, her mother looked after the home, She was brought up to be proud of her Jewish heritage but struggled to deal with antisemitism in school. The day following the Anschluss (the German annexation of Austria) in March 1938, Hedi was turned out of her school; soon after her dad lost his job, their family lost their poem. Hedi and her mother watched the Kristallnacht (the pogrom of November 1938, in which Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues across Germany and Austria were attacked), from the windows of an apartment belonging to a friend who had already fled.

The family's attempts to leave the country became desperate when Hedi's father was released from prison and given six weeks to leave Austria. They received the key documents just in time and left Austria six week before the start of the Second World War, and a week after Hedi's tenth birthday. They arrived with a small suitcase each and £2 17 shillings and six pence between them. 27 members of their extended family perished in the Holocaust. Life in England was not easy for Jewish refugees. Hedi's parents became domestic servants, then her father was interned and subsequently joined the Pioneer Corps, initially the only British army unit in which German and Austrian nationals were allowed to serve. He was never able to practice law again. The family remained in England because the war prohibited travel to America. Hedi loved her school in the Midlands. She became a British citizen in 1946. She married and had children and studied to become a social worker. She thinks of herself as a European Jew.

As parents or carers we want to make you aware that learners can display a broad range of responses to testimony, no one response is the correct one. You may wish to help learners reflect on their experience with a few questions as suggested below:

Why is it still important for us to hear from survivors like Hedi?

Why is learning about the Holocaust still relevant today?

How has the experience of hearing from a survivor helped you to understand more about the Holocaust?

Was there anything that you particularly remember about Hedi's testimony?

Please feel free to let me know if you have any further questions or queries, thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Mr Fearon

Head of History and Politics

School Canteen

The school caterers, Aspens, provide a variety of options to cater for all our learners. Details of the current menu on offer and Meal Deals available can be found [here](#)

Meal Deals represent a particularly good value-for-money lunch option for learners at **£2.70**. This is a very cost effective way for learners to get a good amount of nourishment, rather than purchasing items separately which would be more expensive.

You can add credit to your child's account via the school's online payment system [Scopay](#). If you do not have an online payment account, please email finance@uptonhigh.co.uk to request one.

Free School Meals

Learners in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) are allocated a daily allowance of **£2.70**, which is aligned with the cost of a Meal Deal. The allowance is applied to their account at the start of each day for the child to spend as they see fit, although it is intended for lunchtime provision. You may wish to consider providing extra food or additional funds to your child's account if they wish to eat something at Break as well.

Please be aware that any unused credit is not carried over and does not accumulate. Any purchases that take a child's spending over the daily allowance will be charged to their account, leaving them in deficit. In such instances, parents/carers will be required to top-up their child's account with funds to clear the debt.

Cashless Catering Balances

Please ensure that your child's catering balance is kept in sufficient credit that they are able to make their desired purchases. If for any reason a child does not have sufficient credit on a given day, they should seek out a member of school staff in the canteen to request support in that instance.

Whilst we exercise a degree of understanding and support, a report is run each Wednesday highlighting any learners whose accounts have fallen into deficit and a communication will be sent to the relevant parents/carers requesting that any negative balances are settled as a matter of urgency.

Please discuss your child's spending habits and choices with them so that they are aware of their options and are getting the most from their credit or FSM entitlement.

Lost Property

Unfortunately, we regularly receive items of equipment and clothing that have been lost or left behind by learners. If your child has misplaced any items, please instruct them to inform a member of staff at Student Reception at the earliest possible opportunity.

We always do our best to reunite any lost items with their owners but it is not always easy to identify who they belong to. We strongly advise that all uniform, PE kits and coats are labelled with your child's name in them, so we can identify any property and send a message for your child to collect them from Student Reception.

Lost property is held securely at Student Reception for 6 weeks. Any items that remain unclaimed after this period of time are donated to local charity.

Careers and Next Steps

Click on the link below to see the latest information

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ab57VM41x7_yzr0Q19PUj0r4KoWn--X2iSfZR7KI_yc/edit?usp=sharing