

January

NOTABLE DATES

- 1st** World Day of Peace
Gantan-sai (Shinto)
- 4th** World Braille Day
- 6th** Epiphany (Christian)
- 13th** Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
- 15th** Makar Sankranti (Hindu)
- 18th** beginning of week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Christian)
- 20th** World Religion Day
- 21st** beginning of Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)
Tu BiShvat (Jewish)
- 27th** Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day



Students took part in a live webcast with Robert Rinder and Harry Spiro, as he shared how he survived Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany after being rounded up from Piotrkow in Poland as a young boy.

Mr Spiro, now aged 89, came to the UK in 1945 following the Government's decision to allow 1,000 Holocaust survivors to settle in the country. Robert Rinder's (aka Judge Rinder) grandfather, Morris Malinicky, was part of the same group, known as 'The Boys' and was a friend of Mr Spiro's.

An estimated 50,000 students from around 1,300 schools, colleges and organisations across the globe – including in Portugal, Italy, Holland, the US and Malaysia – tuned in to the webcast.

Asked why he continues to tell his story he said *"The feedback I get from students and after all what I went through, yes I lost everything... students don't understand when I say to them 'no, I do not hate the Germans'. 'I don't hate any nations to the extent to kill them. Yes, it was a terrible thing what they did to me personally, but by hating, no, you will not solve anything. What motivates me is by seeing what is happening now. Communities, nations are still carrying on now in a different form but it equals the same thing, they are hating each other, killing each other, and I think 'wait a minute what are you doing? But now what I see about the young generation – they take notice, they do learn....maybe hopefully, eventually, we will succeed and overcome this terrible hatred.'*

Organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust, Robert Rinder implored students to use Mr Spiro's story as a "weapon" against prejudice.

We are hopeful that again this year a few students will be selected to take part in an educational programme sponsored by the Holocaust Educational Trust that includes a visit to Auschwitz in Poland.

Health & Wellbeing Fair

Staff were welcomed back for the spring term with a day set aside for a training and wellness event showcasing a whole variety of activities and organisations showing us ways to improve our Mental, Physical and Financial Health.

Exhibitors ranged from the British Heart Foundation and Wesleyan financial services and activities were equally wide ranging with hand massages, mindfulness sessions, a self assessment room to check your weight and blood pressure and playing the guess how much sugar game. As a result of the day, staff have now formed a walking group, weight watchers club and are looking at other opportunities to keep healthy in the work place. Yoga has recently been introduced at English Bridge and London Road campuses for staff and students and is proving very popular.