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Date: 14 November 2016

Dear Headteacher

Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration event for your school – Tuesday 24th January 2017

The Hertfordshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) would like to invite your staff and students to attend a Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration (HMD) event. The HMD 2017 event takes place on:

Date: Tuesday 24th January 2017

Time: 1.00pm for a 1.15pm start.

Venue: The John Henry Newman Catholic Secondary School, Hitchin Road, Stevenage, SG1 4AE.
(In case of inclement weather, the reserve date will be Monday 30th January 2017)

The purpose of HMD is to learn from the past, remembering the millions of people killed in the Holocaust and in subsequent genocides and to honour the survivors. This important community event supports Ofsted requirements to develop SMSC and promote British Values. It will provide an opportunity for students to develop:-

- an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination

Focusing on the contemporary relevance, HMD 2017 will encourage us to consider the ways in which we can choose not to be bystanders to victimisation, hate crime and prejudice in order to create a safer, better future.

We are particularly pleased that students from Key Stages 4 and 5 representing a range of local Hertfordshire schools will take part in the event using a variety of art, music, readings and drama. The key emphasis is also to provide the participants and audience with the unique opportunity to hear the personal testimony of a Holocaust survivor. The Hertfordshire SACRE encourages all schools to consider marking Holocaust Memorial Day in assemblies, tutor or circle time or by special events.

Light refreshments will follow the commemoration. Return transport for pupils should be arranged from 3.15pm. Places will be allocated for a maximum of one class per school on a first come first served basis. To ensure your school's places at this free event, email your requests for bookings to:

andrea.cowie@hertsforlearning.co.uk.

RSVP School wishing to benefit from this opportunity are requested to send confirmation and final numbers, of students, staff and governors, as soon as possible and no later than **Tuesday 13th December 2016**.

We look forward to your school being part of this important community event.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Lavender
School Effectiveness Adviser
SACRE Servicing Officer



Lisa Kassapian
RE Adviser, Breathe RE
SACRE Servicing Officer