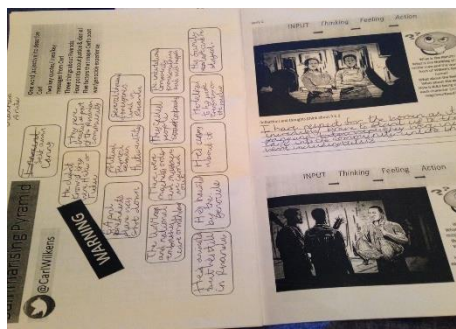


Royal Wootton Bassett Academy marks #Genocide70

To mark **#Genocide70** we hosted a 'Time to Talk about Genocide' workshop and collaborative legacy workshop for 10 RWBA students, 10 from John Bentley School and another 10 from Lawn Manor Academy. This was the first time the RWBA Trust had come together in this way for an HGP event or initiative and it was hugely successful and, we hope, the first of many such difficult and challenging learning opportunities that seek to inform, engage, inspire and empower the young people. Genocide is disturbing, complex and personal - encountering it is hard and yet it draws upon active global citizenships and demands we each look at ourselves and how we can contribute to a world where genocide might, one day, be history.

All participants made a positive contribution to the day and were excellent ambassadors for their school and families. There were so many insightful contributions, thoughtful questions and meaningful discussions. It is clear from the RAG rating table at the start and end of the day that all students' substantive knowledge had improved as a result. For example, they now know who Carl Wilkens is, who coined the term genocide and can explain what Jan Karski did and how he was treated in America. They had a chance to learn from at least three survivors and we were very interested in the three words students choose in one task to describe Lemkin and his legacy. We are excited to see what RWBA participants, Xavier, Rebecca, Honey, Oliwia, Zac, Natasha, Yan-Ting, Daisy Charlie and Alfie do as part of their legacy project. **#T2TAGenocide**



As a UNICEF "Rights Respecting School" it was important for us to mark the anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, so we choose to host another collaborative learning day with students from RWBA and Wyedean School. We called this 'Time to Talk about Human Rights' and the day included a legacy project for the students and schools to follow up on between now and July 2019. Human Rights must not be taken for granted; we know, from examples like the Holocaust, that when rights are rescinded or denied, society is breaking down and should be recognised as a warning sign to genocide. The failure to preserve or protect human rights is disturbing, complex and personal - encountering it can be hard and yet it draws upon active global citizenships and demands we each look at ourselves and how we can contribute to a world where human rights are lived, respected and their abuse, history.

Participants from RWBA made a very positive contribution to the day and were again, excellent ambassadors, made insightful contributions and posed thoughtful questions, including asking about where human rights originated and why. It is clear from the RAG rating table at the start and end of the day that substantive knowledge and understanding had improved because of the day. For example, students know now what the UNDHR is, understand the FRED acronym, and who have an appreciation of Janusz Korczak and his legacy for children's rights. I was very interested to see the Korczak inspired kite students created – thanks to a very special contribution from the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education, Ruth-Anne Lenga, and our very own Mrs Ferguson. These creative and inspirational pieces clearly demonstrated the learning that had taken place earlier in the day – it was also another key example of the significance of Holocaust, genocide and human rights education. We are looking forward to what RWBA students decide to do as part of their legacy project. It was a wonderful day of meaningful learning and active global citizenship. Well done to Lucie, Harvey, Madeleine, Jordan, Felicity, Keith, Rucha, Olivia and Charlie.



To find out more about how Royal Wootton Bassett Academy marked #Genocide70, or its unique whole school, cross curricular, Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights programme (HGP), check out @RWBAHolocaust or <http://www.rwba.org.uk/Special-Projects>