

Children's Support Services UCL Centre for Holocaust Education Quality Mark Beacon School.

Children's Support Service is an UCL Centre for Holocaust Education Quality Mark Beacon School. To commemorate HMD each year the service organises a cross curricular week involving all students and staff across our three centres (Basildon, Langdon Hills and Hadleigh) and via our home and hospital tuition service.

Using the HMD theme as a focal point students and staff explore a diverse range of issues and topics emanating from the Holocaust. This year's theme 'Torn from Home' provides us with opportunities to explore key questions:

- Once torn from home where did they go or more pertinently where were they taken?
- How did their lives change?
- What happened to the communities, homes and possessions they left behind?

Many members of the European Jewry found themselves in ghettos and in keeping with practice from previous years; every room in each of our three centres has 'adopted' a ghetto for the week. Through this approach, students learn the importance of ghettos in Nazi policy. They see that ghettos played differing roles within that strategy as the events of the Holocaust unfolded.

Each subject will tackle a different issue within this topic and students will examine:

Conditions in the ghetto namely food, health, hygiene, housing, crime, education, work, finance.

Spiritual resistance. Students explore how individuals maintained their humanity, personal integrity, dignity, and sense of civilization in the face of Nazi attempts to dehumanize and degrade them and how did people resist having their spirit broken in the midst of the most horrible degradation? How did people maintain cultural and educational activities, religious observance and community activities?

The Ghetto uprisings. Students learn of the uprisings that occurred in 5 major cities, 45 provincial towns, 5 major concentration and extermination camps, as well as in at least 18 forced labour camps. Notably: Łachwa (Lakhva) , Mizocz , Mińsk Mazowiecki ghetto and Warsaw .

Significant individuals. There are countless examples of inspiring stories of those who played a significant role in the holocaust ghettos. Our students will learn of **Janusz Korczak, Béla Guttman** and **Mordechai Anielewicz** .

Updates throughout the week but please follow us on:

Twitter: @css_essex

Website : <https://www.css-essex.co.uk/>

Torn From Home

Facing uncertainty, I am frightened - alone

Where am I going?

I do not want to go I want to go home

Pushed and prodded, treated like cattle, forced into carriages

They are tearing me away but I want to stay

I feel sick and my head throbs with the noise in the train

Where are they taking me? I want to go home

No family, no friends, I have no one with me

I am frightened – alone

Squeezed in with people I do not even know

The smell is horrendous; people are sick they are crying and shouting

So many bodies but I'm all alone

I do not want to go I want to go home

It's been hours and now we've stopped, its deathly quiet outside

We are made to get out

I do not want to go I want to go home

More pushing and prodding, we are made to strip

Then forced into a building

I do not want to go I want to go home

The door shuts behind us

So what happens now?

Now that they've torn us from home

Mrs Gillian Tarrant

HMD 2019