



Holocaust Memorial Day 27th January 2017

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is, as always, on 27th January, and we are confident that many Northumberland schools have already planned events to coincide with the national commemoration. The theme for 2017 is "How can life go on?", so it is likely that many events will reflect on what happens after genocide and our responsibilities in the wake of such a crime. This year's theme is intentionally broad and open-ended.

If your school has yet to confirm how HMD will be commemorated, we suggest that an outstanding starting point for ideas is the HMD Trust website (www.hmd.org.uk), where, among other things, you can find out what is happening in other parts of the country and access lots of excellent teaching and learning materials.

There you will find this remarkable quote from Elie Wiesel, the author and Holocaust survivor whose childhood home was Sighetu Marmatiei in northern Romania:

"For the survivor death is not the problem. Death was an everyday occurrence. We learned to live with death. The problem is to adjust to life, to living. You must teach us about living."

For the last two years, many HMD events have devoted time to reflect on the so-called "Forgotten Genocide" that began in 1915 in the Ottoman Empire and resulted in between a million and 1.5 million deaths. This year, time is likely to be devoted to the attempted genocide directed against the Yazidis in Syria and Iraq. An immense amount of testimony exists to provide an insight into "How can life go on?" from the Yazidi experience of attempted genocide. See, for example, the UN's 2016 report entitled "They came to destroy: ISIS crimes against the Yazidis", which is made up largely of survivor testimony.

Above all, HMD is designed "to challenge prejudice, racism and discrimination, and to promote diversity, equality and harmony between communities". Consequently, schools which address HMD confirm their commitments to community cohesion, equality, diversity, inclusion and challenging extremism and radicalisation.

If schools wish to share with a larger audience what they did to commemorate HMD, please send a summary to Phil André at phil.andre@ntlworld.com and we will publish the article in a forthcoming SACRE Newsletter.





Ponteland High has good reason to celebrate its success in RE!

RE staff and pupils at Ponteland High School have been celebrating a record RE GCSE haul this year following the 2016 summer exam season.

Mark Davidson, Raising Achievement Leader for Humanities at the school, said, "An incredible amount of hard work by both staff and pupils ensured a well-deserved 80% of our Year 11 pupils gained an A*-C in the subject this year. We are all thrilled with the achievement of our pupils."

170 pupils were entered for the exam, which focussed on Religion and Morality alongside Religion and Life Issues. Mark said, "There is a genuine belief by many that 'It's only RE' and that the subject is easier than others. This simply isn't the case. Our pupils worked so hard to achieve so much in RE. We have all been so pleased with their efforts."

The subject areas included Religion, War and Peace, Crime and Punishment and Religious Attitudes to the Elderly and Death. These topics allowed the pupils the opportunity to explore topics and themes that were in the news at the time. They were able to investigate religious views and opinions on a wide range of topics.

RE Teacher Caitlin Naylor commented, "As last year was my NQT (newly qualified teacher) year, I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of teaching my Year 11 classes

for the first time. I was delighted with our results. RE is a fantastic subject to teach and I am looking forward to my future teaching this subject."

Caitlin had previously trained at the school as part of the School Direct programme. She was appointed as an RE teacher at the end of her placement. "RE is such an interesting and captivating subject to teach," she said. "It challenges the pupils to look at the world around them in a completely different way."

Entering so many pupils for the exam was a considerable challenge for the RE team, who worked tirelessly to devise and produce resources relevant to the pupils and their abilities. The pupils worked so hard over the three years of the course to make the most of the curriculum time available to them.

We hope we can replicate this success in the future.

P.S. Mark and Caitlin: the SACRE members have every confidence in the RE team at Ponteland High and are convinced even greater success lies ahead. Many thanks and well done!

The Northumberland County Council

RE Agreed Syllabus

a briefing and network meeting for teachers responsible for RE in the North of the County

Date and Time:

24th January 2017 from 9.00am to 12 midday.
Tea and coffee will be available from 9.00am.
The session will formally begin at 9.30am.

Venue:

Lindisfarne Middle School, Lindisfarne Road,
Alnwick, NE66 1AX.

As you may be aware, Northumberland County Council launched its new and much improved RE Agreed Syllabus in September 2016, a syllabus that will be used in schools until at least August 2021.

Here is an opportunity for teachers responsible for RE in first, primary, middle, secondary, high and special schools in the north of the County to make sure they get the best out of the new syllabus.

Phil André, the Local Authority's part-time RE Consultant, will:

- explain how the syllabus came into being,
- describe what each section of the three-part document contains,
- offer advice about how to meet the new statutory requirements,
- and highlight how teachers are already successfully utilising the syllabus content.

During the half-day session there will also be an opportunity for attendees to share with each other teaching and learning strategies that are working well for them so that best practice is disseminated among neighbouring schools.

To book your place on the CPD session, or for further information about it, contact Phil André on 01325-251130 or, even better, write to him at phil.andre@ntlworld.com. There is no problem if a second member of staff wishes to attend from the same school, or if a governor with an interest in RE wishes to attend with a teacher.

Stop press. This session is definitely running because of the number of teachers, etc. who have already signed up for it. Similar sessions will therefore be arranged in the south and the west of the County later this term. Information about the follow-up sessions will be sent via the e-courier once details about the venues, etc. have been firmed up.



The SACRE membership

Committee A: Other Faiths

Bhakti Rasa Adhikhara: Hinduism

Cloud Singh: Sikhism

Harpal Singh: Sikhism

Mrs. J. Cousin: Roman Catholic Church

Reverend E. Marley, OBE: Baptist Church and United Reformed Church

Mrs. D. Van der Velde: Judaism

Vacancy: Methodist Church

Committee B: Church of England

Mrs. E. Bainbridge

Mr. C. Hudson

Mr. P. Rusby

Reverend J. Scott

Committee C: Teaching Associations/Unions

Mr. M. Davidson

Miss F. Gannon

Mr. T. Nicholls/Mr. A. Duffield

Mrs. H. Shaw

Committee D: Local Authority

Councillor G. R. Arckless

Councillor A. H. Murray

Councillor B. Pidcock, MBE

Councillor J. E. Smith

Co-opted Representatives

Mrs. C. Butterworth: North-East Humanists

Observer (representing the academies and free schools)

Mr. S. Gibson, Northumberland Church of England Academy

Local Authority Officers in Attendance

Phil André, Part-time RE Consultant

David Cookson, Commissioner for Secondary Education

Linda Papaioannou, Democratic Services Officer and

Clerk to the SACRE

Forthcoming Festivals/Commemorations

5 January	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh Nanakshahi Calendar)
6 January	Epiphany (Western Christian)
6 - 7 January	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (Orthodox Christian, Rastafarian)
27 January	Holocaust Memorial Day (National)
28 January	Yuan Tan/Chinese New Year (Chinese)
1 February	Vasant Panchami/Saraswati Puja (Hindu)
2 February	Imbolc (Pagan)
2 February	Candlemas/The Presentation of the Lord (Christian)
10 - 11 February	Tu B'Shevat (Jewish)
11 February	Teng Chieh (Chinese)
12 February	Darwin's Birthday (National)
15 February	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
24 February	Shivaratri (Hindu)
27 February	First Day of Lent/The Great Feast (Orthodox Christian)
28 February	Shrove Tuesday (Western Christian)
1 March	Ash Wednesday (Western Christian)
1 March - 13 April	Lent (Western Christian)
1 March	St. David's Day (National)
3 March	Women's World Day of Prayer (Christian)
8 March	Mahashivratri (Hindu)
8 March	International Women's Day (International)
11 - 12 March	Purim (Jewish)
13 March	Holi (Hindu)
13 March	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
17 March	St. Patrick's Day (National)
21 March	Nawruz (Bahai)
28 March	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrians)
31 March	Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
2 April	Ching Ming (Chinese)
4 April	Rama Navami (Hindu)
9 April	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
9 - 15 April	Holy Week (Western Christian)
10 - 18 April	Pesach/Passover (Jewish)
14 April	Good Friday (Western Christian)
14 April	Holy Friday (Orthodox Christian)
14 April	Baisakhi (Sikh)
16 April	Easter Day (Western Christian)
16 April	Pascha/Easter Day (Orthodox Christian)
21 April - 2 May	Ridvan (Bahai)
23 April	St. George's Day (National)
23 April	Lailat-al- Miraj (Muslim)
23 - 24 April	Yom Ha-Shoah/Holocaust Day (Jewish)
1 May	Beltane (Pagan)
10 May	Wesak/Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) (Buddhism)
11 May	Lailat-al- Bara'a/Barat (Muslim)

P.S. Anyone seeking to identify the dates for additional festivals and/or commemorations from January to mid-May, access the many lists available on the internet. Some of the best such lists (in terms of inclusiveness and accuracy) derive from the BBC and RE:Online. The Shap Working Party on World Religion also produces a very good list, but the list must be purchased whether in hard or electronic form.

Please send your contributions or comments to:

Linda Papaioannou, Democratic Services Officer, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF

Telephone: 01670 622615 **E-mail:** Linda.Papaioannou@northumberland.gov.uk

For further information, please see NASACRE newsletters at:

www.nasacre.org.uk and www.multifaiths.com