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Headlands Headlines

Message from Mrs Stamford

In the last few weeks Year 6 students have found out which secondary schools they will be attending and this is the first time our new Year 6 parents are reading our weekly newsletter. A huge welcome to all of our Year 6 parents and students. We absolutely can not wait to welcome you to Team Headlands and we will be seeing you quite often before September now as part of our transition programme.

Following on from National Careers week, yesterday was our annual Careers Fair. We had over 50 guests attending the careers fair for all of our students from Years 7-13. The event was an incredible success and our students really did appreciate the opportunity to speak with companies about their future prospects.

This led nicely to last night

where we held our Year 9 Options Evening and it was brilliant to see so many parents and students excited about those next steps. If you need any further support with filling out the form or indeed making those important options choices please contact us, we are always here to help.

Mrs Stamford
Head of School

Alejandro - Year 7

Alejandro competed in the Fylde Coast Dance Festival on Sunday in the prestigious Spanish Hall, Wintergardens, Blackpool. Where he was crowned double champion in the Juvenile Ballroom events. He competed across 4 rounds in the Juvenile Open Waltz & Tango and 3 rounds in the Waltz, Fox-trot, and Quick Step. Both events had over 20 competitors. He was up against some of the best solo dancers on the circuit and also up against judges that had dancers on the floor (who marked him 5th / 6th when others marked him 1st. But that is the crazy world of ballroom!).



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Mrs Bone's Newsflash

I am writing this today from my hometown of Liverpool - a city filled with lots of fond memories for me of my youth and childhood. However my return is also often overshadowed with a sense of "what could have been." I am staying a stone's throw away from The Royal Liver Building - a building my best friend Juliet spent hours drawing as a teenager as part of her A' Level Art project. Hours I sat alongside her in awe of her skill, patience and sheer genius. Sadly within 12 months of her completing our A' Levels she was dead. Dead because a young, reckless teenage driver decided to take a 90 degree corner at over 120 mph in his new BMW. There were no tyre marks. He didn't even attempt to use his brakes. Her life was gone in an instant as she was flung 100 metres from the back windscreen of his car. I will forever remember the early hours phone call I received from my friend telling me she had been killed, the look of terror and utter disbelief in her mother's eyes as I arrived at her home 30 minutes later, and the way I felt having read her eulogy, walking down from the pulpit looking at her

coffin and making eye contact with her completely devastated and broken family. Her untimely and tragic death very nearly broke me. Whilst the cliché is time is a great healer, the utter sadness of loss I felt still resonates with me today some 30 years later. Juliet was, like me, a massive Liverpool FC fan (don't hold this against us!) and the words to "You'll Never Walk Alone" elicit so many wonderful, and yet poignant memories whenever I hear or sing the song.

So, why am I letting you know this? Well, next Tuesday we will be welcoming representatives from Humberside Police to come and deliver a very powerful, hard hitting assembly on the dangers of driving and talk about how statistically young people, in particular males, are more likely to cause road traffic accidents and their victims are more often than not their female passengers. This message is really important to safeguard our children both now and in the future. However, I do appreciate that for some children the subject matter may be very close to home and where

we know this is the case Year Leaders and Tutors will discuss this with students to decide whether they would want to be in this assembly before Tuesday. If you would like to discuss this further please contact your Year Leader via emailing admin@headlandsschool.co.uk and they will contact you at a mutually convenient time.

Finally, in the words of the great Kenny Dalglish "I may have left Liverpool but the Club and the City will always be part of me." Have a great weekend and fingers crossed we see some sunshine!

Mrs S Bone
Executive Headteacher



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Year 13 Beth Shalom History Trip

As part of their A-level curriculum studies Year 13 Historians visited the Holocaust Centre near Nottingham and had the incredible opportunity to hear Hungarian Holocaust survivor Dr Agnes Kaposi speak about her experiences during and after the Second World War. Throughout students were reflective, highly engaged, and clearly empathetic for those who suffered under the Nazi and Soviet occupation. The centres exhibition was the first port of call, with students seeing the development of Anti-Semitism from diaspora, to medieval Europe and into the Nazi era. Artefacts included death camp pyjama's and hats, their limited possessions inside the camps, including spoons and bowls from Auschwitz, primary sources such as posters and personal accounts relayed through video and written texts.

The students then had the amazing opportunity to hear from Agnes and her experiences as a child in 1933 when the Nazi party emerged in Germany to aged 13 when the Nazi regime collapsed, only to be replaced by another dictatorship with Hungary under Soviet communist control. Ultimately her family's freedom was found in the UK in 1957. Agnes' book cleverly titled "Yellow star to Red Star", evidences this transition from Nazism to Communist Dictatorship and is a harrowing read. As Germany's ally, Hungary followed an almost mirror image to the events in Germany. Agnes was also very critical of the willingness of her fellow countrymen to partake in the discrimination, segregation and murder of Jews, noting that students who had previously sought her help in class soon turned against her; one suggesting "you don't belong here". Her father, a socialist wasn't allowed to work from 1933 so the family lived in abject poverty despite his qualifications in accountancy. He was, however, able to spend time with his children, who all survived, and help Agnes in her schooling. She emerged from the war as a qualified engineer and held a successful career after the war, eventually resulting in a recent MBE from King Charles II.

The emergence of the Hungarian "Red Cross" government in 1944 spelt disaster for many Hungarian Jews, and for Agnes and her family, they were soon deported by train to Auschwitz death camp, fortunately the train was diverted on the way and she ended up working as a slave labourer on a farm and then industrial plant in Austria. The conditions were so awful that her mother was left permanently injured, her father she described as "being left skeletal" and her brother also suffered physical handicap, all of them plagued by ill-health following the war. The liberation of her family on the 27th March 1945 by the Russians brought little respite as treatment of Jews was harsh, Agnes said there was "no compassion, no food and terror from the Russian Red Army soldiers", noting that one said "why didn't Hitler finish the job?". Agnes said that the Hungarian communist government "decided" that she would become an engineer, in this she was highly successful, but fled Stalin's tyranny, arriving in the UK in 1957.

At the age of 92 Agnes is a highly formidable character, fluent, intelligent and she continues to work. Her voluntary talks at Beth Shalom are engaging, interesting and horrifying at the same time. She answers questions honestly and speaks out against all forms of discrimination, especially against women, and of the need to "treat people the way you want to be treated", she speaks out against all injustice, whoever the perpetrator is, and that the current situation in Gaza makes her "cry". When students in Munich (Germany) heard her speak they asked for "forgiveness" to which she replied "you have done nothing wrong". It had been their parents and grandparents who helped aid the policies of Hitler and the Red Cross government.

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The students now visited the exhibition at Beth Shalom, experiencing what it was like for Jews in German schools, at work, during Kristallnacht and the kinder transports. They were also able to see a range of artefacts, most provided by survivors and their families and including-a gold bar hidden in a sweeping brush which enabled survivor Simon Winston and family to pay guards in the Polish ghettos to bring food and their survival. There was also a napkin from the family of Anne Frank, toys, clothing and shoes of Jewish children.



Photographed above, Simon who as a child hid under a pig-sty for 9 months in Poland to escape the SS and also survived the horrors of a Polish ghetto, with the gold bar to the right of the brush.

The students clearly gained from this experience and said:

"It was really interesting to hear a survivor and immerse oneself in the reality of the time at the "journey" exhibition"- Charlotte

"Really well organised with lovely people who had incredible stories to tell"- Ellie

"An interesting and insightful museum"- Madeline

"To hear a Holocaust survivor was insightful and gave a clearer picture of the horrors they faced"- Oliver



Agnes Kaposi



SA uniform and school anti-Semitic textbook from the "journey" exhibition



A statue of remembrance at Beth Shalom: The 6 finger represent 6 million lives lost

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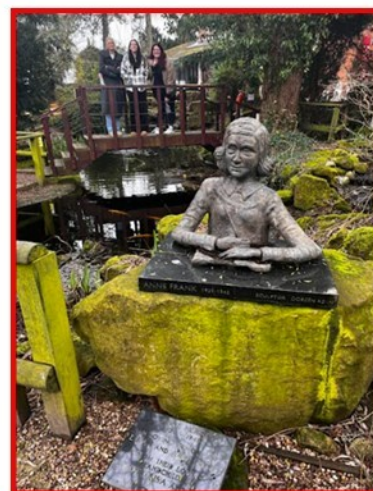


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Statue of Anne Frank (behind are Maddie, Jayda and Emelia) this is situated in the grounds of Beth Shalom



Students placed stones on this memorial to the 1.5m children who were murdered in the Holocaust. The aim is for 1.5 million to do so and so far the number is estimated to be 750,000

