

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 March 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Holocaust Memorial Commemorative Event
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update on the Holocaust Memorial Commemorative event which took place on 22 January 2020 in Trinity High School.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the involvement of children, young people and members of the community in the Holocaust Memorial Commemorative event on 22 January 2020, where the theme was 'Stand together', and hosted by Trinity High School, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. For well over a decade, the Council, through Education Resources, has hosted a Holocaust Commemorative event on an annual basis in January, close to 27 January which is the Holocaust Memorial Day.

3.2. This year, children and young people and members of the community took part in the commemorative event hosted by Trinity High School in Rutherglen.

3.3. Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2020, marks two very important anniversaries which are the:

- 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau
- 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia

3.4. HMD 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau – a significant milestone and made particularly poignant by the dwindling number of survivors who are able to share their testimony.

4. Holocaust Memorial Day 2020

4.1. The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2020 was 'Stand Together'. This theme is used to encourage people to reflect on how the enforced loss of a safe place to call 'home' is part of the trauma faced by anyone experiencing persecution and genocide.

- 4.2. Those who perform at the event are primary and secondary aged pupils from across South Lanarkshire, as well as the host school. This year there were over 140 young performers.
- 4.3. The event was opened by Mr Peter Bollen, Head Teacher, Trinity High School, Head host school. Leader of the Council, Councillor John Ross formally welcomed everyone and invited them to reflect on the powerful and thought-provoking performances of young people on the theme, 'Stand Together'.
- 4.4. The School Captains led the event and were excellent comperes. The school captains were:-
- ◆ Amy Cunningham
 - ◆ Luke McCauley
 - ◆ Giuliano Piacentini
- 4.5. Pupils from the following schools took part in the event:-
- ◆ Calderside Academy, Blantyre
 - ◆ Robert Smillie Memorial Primary School, Larkhall
 - ◆ Carluke High School
 - ◆ Cathkin High School, Rutherglen
 - ◆ Lesmahagow High School
 - ◆ Lanark Grammar School
 - ◆ St John Ogilvie High School, Hamilton
 - ◆ Strathaven Academy
 - ◆ St Andrew's and St Bride's High School, East Kilbride
 - ◆ as well as 3 performances by Trinity High School
- 4.6. A very poignant Candle Lighting Ceremony was led by the guest of honour, Rabbi Mendel Jacobs, accompanied by the Head Teacher and the school captains.
- 4.7. Councillor Katy Loudon, Chair of the Education Resources Committee closed the evening by thanking everyone who participated with a special thanks being conveyed to pupils from across South Lanarkshire for their inspirational performances of drama, dance, poetry, readings, song and reflections of pupils who participated in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme.
- 4.8. Throughout the evening, pupils from across South Lanarkshire gave stunning and inspirational performances which captured well the theme of 'Stand Together'.
- 4.9. The programme included drama, dance, poetry, readings, song and reflections of pupils who participated in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme. Notably, the time will soon come when there are no more survivors of the Holocaust left to share their experiences directly.
- 4.10. The commemorative event and the participation of children and people empowers them to 'stand together', and to help ensure that their legacy can be a society that is more equal, compassionate and free.

- 4.11. The Committee is invited to note the involvement of children, young people and the members of the community in marking Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 and that the success of this event will be used as platform to plan next year's commemorative event.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications contained within this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no financial implications contained within this report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no significant implications for climate change, sustainability and the environment arising from the recommendations in this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no implications for risk in terms of the information contained in this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. This report provides an update on Holocaust Memorial Commemorative event which can be widely shared.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (Education Resources)

13 February 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Increase achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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