

# Headteacher's Bulletin

Friday 31st January 2025

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

This week students have been learning more about the Holocaust in assemblies. This year's Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

We encourage students to engage with the stories of the individuals affected, including reading poems, watching films, or listening to survivor's words.

## Auschwitz poem


The semiquaver chugging of the train on the track  
And the people on board who will never go back  
And the terror in the eyes of all the young ones to go  
With no one knowing as the train comes to slow

Those men at the station as the ramps drop down  
Where humanity lost is the only crippled sound  
Hope gone for those who stand behind the hard sharp wire  
And the smoke in the towers rises just a little higher

And the blue ink stabs a little harder in the skin  
Above the veins of despair where murder let it in  
And the terror in the eyes of all those about to leave  
Another train on the track no last minute reprieve

And the slow, crot...chet chugging of the train on the track;  
And the people on board. Who will ne...ver go.

Back.



Poem by Charles N. Whittaker  
Read by actor Olivia Colman

80 years on from the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, antisemitism (anti-Jewish hatred) has increased significantly in the UK. It is hoped that that HMD 2025 can be an opportunity for people to come together, learn both from and about the past, and take actions to make a better future for all.

### What is genocide?



Genocide is when a group of people is targeted for destruction just because of who they are, such as their race or their religion. This has happened in many countries around the world.

There are many things we can all do to create a better future. We can speak up against Holocaust and genocide denial and distortion; we can challenge prejudice; we can encourage others to learn about the Holocaust and more recent genocides. This Holocaust Memorial Day, we all have an opportunity to take action for a better future. A better future where people are not suffering prejudice or persecution because of their faith, ethnicity or other characteristic.

If you would like to learn more about the Holocaust and other genocides, these websites are recommended:

- The [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website](#)
- The websites of the members of the [HMD Partnership Group](#)
- The [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
- Yad Vashem – [The World Holocaust Remembrance Center](#)

## Accessing Our Site

We have noticed an increase of vehicles driving onto the school site, pulling up to drop students off. This is at times causing congestion and holding up school buses.

You can use Hood Park Car Park or the Library Car Park as an alternative safe drop off point for your child.

Can we please ask parents NOT to drop off or pick up their children on site unless absolutely necessary. Should you need to drop your child off on site please can you avoid the following times:  
Between 8.10 and 8.25 in the mornings and 3.05 - 3.15 in the afternoon.

## Family Bursary for Inspire Youth Collective – Ashby Hub



The new Ashby youth centre is pleased to announce that it is introducing a bursary scheme for families experiencing financial difficulties.

Full details and an application form can be found on our website:

[Ashby Youth Centre- Bursary Applications | Ivanhoe School](#)

They are also looking for more businesses or organisations that would like to sponsor a place for a child to be able to access this great resource.

Again, further information can be found on our website.

## School Closes at 2.00pm for Staff Training on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025



Please make arrangements for your child to get home on this day.

Buses have already been arranged for those students accessing school transport.

## SEND Funding Concern – Funding for students

Leicestershire Secondary Headteachers - about 40 in total - have come together to bring awareness of the funding crisis we are facing within education. Please read the letter, appended at the end of this bulletin, carefully (emailed to all parents on 29<sup>th</sup> January) and if you could lobby our local MP to show your support then that would help support us in ensuring that SEND funding stays in schools and remains a government priority.

## PSHRE and Wider Personal Development

Please find below information about next week's topics for PSHRE. If you have any queries regarding these, please contact our subject leader Claire Gee on [c.gee@ivanhoe.co.uk](mailto:c.gee@ivanhoe.co.uk). The curriculum resources for these all lessons are available for parents on request.



	PSHRE Topic	RE Topic
Year 7	Sleep Hygiene	Who was Jesus?
Year 8	What is Extremism?	What is The Torah?
Year 9	Forced and Arranged Marriage	Polytheism
Year 10	Sexualised Imagery and the Law	Plato's Cave
Year 11	Exams and Wellbeing	What do Heaven and Hell mean?

## Ivanhoe Way Focus

Throughout the year in form time, we look at practical ways that the 'Ivanhoe Way' can be applied to help students achieve and be happy learners. Next week we will be focussing on:

***Be responsible for managing your time'***

## What's Coming Up

Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 8 Online Parents Evening
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 10/11 Touring Production
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 8/9 Whitby Trip
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	2pm finish for staff training
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for Half Term

That's all for this week. Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Allford – Headteacher**





29<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you with deep concern regarding the challenges facing children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in schools across the country and the potential consequences of a proposed funding decision that could have far-reaching impacts.

The decision to transfer 0.5% of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2025-26 may sound like a small shift, but in reality, it poses significant risks to the quality of education and support available in schools for all children, including those with SEND. While we acknowledge the urgent need to better support children with SEND, this transfer of funds is not the solution. Instead, it will make an already difficult situation worse for schools and families alike.

The 0.5% transfer refers to a reallocation of funds within the Dedicated Schools Grant, which is the main source of funding for schools. The Schools Block provides the essential funding that schools rely on for day-to-day operations, including teaching staff, resources, and support services. The High Needs Block, on the other hand, is intended to support children and young people with SEND, especially those requiring additional resources or specialised placements. While the High Needs Block is critical for supporting SEND pupils, taking funds from the Schools Block reduces the capacity of mainstream schools to provide in-school SEND provision, effectively creating a situation where both funding streams become overstretched.

Former Schools Minister Nick Gibb recently admitted that “we have let down thousands” of SEND children. This admission highlights the systemic challenges in our current education system. Yet, instead of addressing these issues with targeted investment, this decision will take money away from the Schools Block—the core funding that allows schools to run, retain staff, and provide support to all pupils.

To make matters worse, Tom Rees, the government’s inclusion tsar, has criticised the way SEND is often treated under a broad and misleading “umbrella” label. This lack of nuance in the system means schools already face difficulties in meeting the unique needs of individual children. Redirecting funds away from schools will leave them with fewer resources to address these needs, and, ultimately, children will suffer the most.

What does this mean for your child?

- Schools will face budget cuts that could lead to job losses, including the reduction of vital specialist SEND staff.
- The level of support available in mainstream schools for children with SEND will decrease as resources are stretched even thinner.
- The overall quality of education for all children will be impacted as schools struggle to manage rising costs alongside declining budgets.
- Indicative figures calculated for Ivanhoe School suggest that this move will remove £50,000 of funding for 2025-26, at a time when we can afford this least.

Ivanhoe School is part of the  
LIFE Multi Academy Trust



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At a time when national education leaders are calling for greater investment in schools to improve SEND provision, this funding transfer threatens to undermine these efforts. Schools are already under immense financial pressure, and this move will force them to make impossible decisions that will ultimately harm the children they strive to support.

We believe that instead of redistributing existing funding, the government must commit to providing increased investment for both the High Needs Block and the Schools Block. Only with sufficient funding can schools provide the tailored support that children with SEND deserve while maintaining high-quality education for all.

I met with Amanda Hack, our MP for NWL on Saturday, to raise my concerns and share the frustrations around the current funding for SEND students across the county.

As parents and carers, your voice is powerful. I urge you to join us in advocating for fair funding for our schools and children. Reach out to your local representatives, express your concerns, and help us send a clear message: our children deserve better.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your continued support in ensuring all children receive the education and support they need to thrive.

Yours faithfully,



Alison Allford  
**Headteacher**



## Community News

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING ROADSHOW

FREE  
EVENT

Friday 21 February | 12pm - 4pm

Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, Stephenson Way LE67 3FE

Looking for new activities in 2025?

Curious about health, wellbeing, finance, or education?

Need support for yourself or someone you care for?

Searching for family activities during half term?

Come to the Health and Wellbeing Roadshow!

Scan the QR code to  
find activities and  
support offers near you  
or visit [LLRJoy.com](http://LLRJoy.com)

joy



- 50+ stalls with something for everyone, whatever your age!
- Free health checks and vaccinations
- Advice and support for:
  - Physical and mental health, carers, education, employment and much more...
- Activities and services for children and young people.

FREE return transport  
provided by The Marlene  
Reid Centre to the event.

Call to book:

01530 512 456



For more information please contact Katie Hayes at [katie.hayes@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:katie.hayes@nwleicestershire.gov.uk)

