Light and Dark in Humanities

Recently a group of Year 10 students used a History lesson to walk to the Beth Shalom Synagogue on Hackney Road to see an exhibition titled Remember the Holocaust.

Containing art work, displays, sculptures, photographs, posters and newspaper articles, the exhibition was curated by Andrew Steiner. The boys were then able to listen to Andrew and another holocaust survivor, Eva Temple, who shared their respective stories before answering a series of questions. Eva’s story was particularly poignant for the boys as she was the youngest survivor of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and described an incredible survival story, the details of which she had pieced together through Red Cross records and some of the few relatives that were still living at the time.

The boys embraced the two key themes that emerged by the end of this memorable session. Firstly, the importance of standing up for your beliefs and values - fac fortia et patere. Secondly, recognising that man has the capacity to conquer hatred and evil by demonstrating grace and compassion. Andrew and Eva offered great wisdom to these students and each and every one of them appreciated the extraordinary lessons to be learnt after our memorable afternoon stroll.

Some comments offered about the experience included the following:

“This experience was incredibly profound and made me reflect significantly on the past and how critical it is to remember...” Zac Weigold

‘I find it very hard to understand how Eva and Andrew can still go on today and talk about these events they have lived through.” Stuart Brennan

“I will cherish the experience for the rest of my life.” Orlando Norman

“These stories were very inspiring because they showed that just one person can change the world. It also taught me that you should stand up to people that are doing wrong.” Jock Duncan

It was pleasing to see a number of other Humanities and senior History students entering competitions such as the Flinders University Essay competition, the Simpson Prize, the National History Challenge and the Premier’s ANZAC Spirit Prize over the last few months. We wish them well and congratulate them on extending themselves beyond the classroom.

Ron Pippett

Matt Georgiadis, Cameron Young, Lachy Zanker and Noah Burchett-Knott with Mrs Eva Temple.