



### **Lessons from Auschwitz Project February and March 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers.

We would like to inform you of the opportunity for your child to participate in the Lessons from Auschwitz (LFA) Project, taking place from the Thames Valley & Chilterns. This project is run by the Holocaust Educational Trust and involves a one-day visit to the former Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. Auschwitz-Birkenau was the principal and most notorious of the concentration and extermination camps established by Nazi Germany to implement its Final Solution policy, which had as its aim the mass murder of the Jewish people in Europe. More than just a visit to Poland, the course is a journey of learning and exploration – about the history of the Holocaust and about the world we live in.

Our school is eligible to send two of our students on the LFA Project and we are now inviting students to apply to represent us this year. These students are selected from the A Level History and Religious Studies cohort, with one coming from each subject area. There is often a high demand for the places so we are asking those who would like to participate to submit a 500-word statement explaining why they would like to be selected. There is, however, a significant commitment required by successful applicants and we thought it would be helpful to share this with you now so you can discuss this fully with your child prior to them submitting their application piece. We also want to make you aware that the school has only a coordinating role in this project, with students engaging with the programme under the leadership of staff from the Holocaust Educational Trust. BHS staff are not actively involved or present in either the in-person or online seminar or the visit to Poland.

The LFA Project is made up of four parts. All parts are compulsory.

#### **Online Orientation Seminar – Thursday 12th February – in person seminar, London (venue location TBC)**

In this seminar participants will discuss pre-war Jewish life, hear first-hand testimony from a Holocaust survivor and discuss the unique issues of preparing for a Holocaust-related site visit. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet virtually with their group and their trained LFA educator.

#### **One-day visit to Poland –Wednesday 25th February, Luton Airport**

Participants tour authentic sites and museum exhibits with both a local guide and a trained LFA educator who leads group discussions. The flight is likely to be early in the morning with a late return. We believe that this will be an excellent chance for students to develop their knowledge of the Holocaust, as well as providing fantastic opportunities to work with the Trust in furthering Holocaust education in our community. We are aware however that it could also be a challenging experience and students may need additional support when they return from Poland and this too may be something you wish to discuss with your child prior to them submitting their application. Be assured that the LFA Project team are highly experienced in dealing with the pastoral needs of students, and each group is led by a trained LFA educator who participants can speak to.

#### **Online Follow-up seminar –Sunday 1st March, Online Seminar**

This seminar is for participants to reflect on the visit, explore the contemporary relevance of the lessons of the Holocaust and devise practical ideas for passing on these lessons to their school and local community.

#### **Next Steps –**

Participants become “Ambassadors” for the LFA Project by completing a project of their choosing aimed at disseminating in their schools and communities the lessons they have learned.

We are offering this opportunity to students at a cost of **£67.85 per participant** – this fee covers all course materials as well as the flights to and from Poland for the day visit. ***Please be aware that students will need to make their own way to and from the orientation seminar (venue tbc) and to and from Luton Airport for the one-day visit to Poland. These additional travel costs are not included in the participation fee. The day visit to Poland has both an early start and a late finish. We want to make parents/carers aware of the potential logistical challenges of this before their child applies for and potentially secures a place (e.g. in 2025 check-in was 04.30am and the flight arrived back at Luton after 22.00).*** Where Sixth Form students are entitled to 16-19 Bursary, we ask that the students make the payments out of the money received from the bursary. To confirm that parents are happy for their child to be considered for this opportunity, we request that you complete the following form: <https://forms.office.com/e/CtJfcYvPiX>.

If your child would like to be considered for the Lessons from Auschwitz Project they will need to have parental approval (via the form above) and they will need to email their 500-word statement to both of us: Mrs Morrison (Religious Studies) and Mrs Williams (History) **by 15.30 Friday 3rd October**. We look forward to reading their submissions.

Yours faithfully,

**Victoria Williams and Caroline Morrison**