

June 2020

Srebrenica Remembered

Dear Parents/Carers,

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This crime against humanity saw the murder of 8,372 Muslim men and boys on the 11th July 1992. This year, our academy was due to host a commemorative event to remember Srebrenica as the most recent genocide on European soil.

Unfortunately, due to the effects of the coronavirus, we are not able to deliver our commemorations through assembly, form time and lessons as planned.

Our academy is committed to ensuring that pupils learn about human rights, the dangers of racism and hatred based on religion, and to creating a community that draws people together and doesn't push them apart. One of the ways we believe that pupils can learn these things, is through learning about what happened elsewhere in the world so that they can prevent such atrocities ever happening here.

For this reason, we are writing to you to ask that on the 6th July 2020, at 11am, you conduct an act of remembrance with your child at home. We suggest holding a minute's silence, or if you have one available, lighting a candle. Your child has also been given appropriate activities to learn about Srebrenica so that they can understand what they are commemorating.

Together you might read through the work that your child has been set so that you may be able to answer any questions that they have on this topic. Pupils will also be advised to direct questions towards their teachers, and **Remembering Srebrenica**, the only UK charity dedicated to the remembrance of Srebrenica, will be on hand on social media all day to answer questions from children that are sent to their twitter page (@SrebrenicaUK).

This year, Remembering Srebrenica's theme is '**Every Action Matters**' and it is an exceptionally powerful and poignant theme considering the COVID-19 crisis. While your child will learn about some of the actions that Bosnians took in the face of great adversity, they will also be asked to reflect on the actions that they have taken over recent weeks and months to make their own community better and stronger. We believe that it will lead pupils towards a message of hope and forward-thinking, as well as reflection on the past.

We thank you in advance for supporting us in delivering these lessons, and all the lessons that you have helped us deliver over the last few weeks and months.

Best Wishes,

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