



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am pleased to share more stories with you all this week.

My congratulations go to our outstanding Y13 students who performed so well in The British Physics Olympiad; we look forward to the results of future rounds.

It is also heartening to read the reflections of our A'Level students on their links with students from Czeřstochowa in Poland when discussing the impact of the 2nd World War on our respective communities. As all historians will tell you, understanding the past helps shape the future.

On a related note, we are pleased to recommend two super books to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. I will take this opportunity to recommend my own; "The Choice", by Edith Eger. Look out for our newly improved school website this week!

I wish you all a good week ahead,

Mr Clayton, Headteacher

Physics Olympiad

2022 has started with celebrations here at President Kennedy School with our Year 13 Physicists achieving success in one of the most challenging Physics competitions in the world - **The British Physics Olympiad (BPhO)**.

The BPhO shows a profound depth of development and skill in physics along with a determination to solve difficult physics problems. This paper is a challenge and is not an A level replica.

It is a very tall ladder of skill, ability and preparedness, which students climb until they grind to a halt.

Out of 2,300 students from 393 schools and only 170 students achieving Top Gold, we are extremely proud to announce the following results from Round 1:

Kush Patel – Top Gold
Joseph Brew – Bronze II
Joshua Palad - Bronze II
Zak Adams - Bronze II
Robert Sterea - Commendation
Mya Birdee - Commendation

Well done to all that took part.

Mr Green, Science KS5 Lead



International History Webinar

This week saw the 2nd International History Webinar, consisting of a group of A Level students sharing accounts of Coventry's past and listening to similar testimony from students in Częstochowa, Poland. This collaboration is proving a huge success. In difficult times, when educational visits are few and far between, it has been particularly rewarding to see such a shared passion in the heritage of our respective cities.



The meeting was all the more poignant for the terrible atrocities both cities witnessed during World War Two. Year 13 historians Aliza Hussain, Zak Adams, Courtney Randle and Nick Pawlos, gave a moving and well-researched presentation, enlightening the Polish students about the damage and devastation of November 14th/ 15th 1940 when Coventry suffered the worst air-raid from the German Luftwaffe of the War. As Aliza put it, "a part of Coventry's identity was taken, as well as around 41,500 homes, 71 factories and 568 civilian lives". But she did not overlook the „blitz spirit“, so prominent in the recovery effort and tales of bravery amongst the ruins. For Zak, it was important to inform our Polish friends of the controversy surrounding the bombing of Coventry.

The theory that Coventry was sacrificed in the name of strengthening Britain's long term position in the war, particularly in disguising our ability to detect future raids, provided the greatest talking point.

From the Polish students, we heard evidence of the most appalling atrocities committed by Nazi invaders on the streets of Częstochowa. Bloody Monday, 4th September 1939, alone saw the murder of 500 innocent civilians. This was sadly, not a one off act of Nazi barbarism as there followed a sustained attempt to eliminate the Jewish and social intelligentsia sector of the population.

Our students were amazed and inspired by the strength of the population that survived these outrageous pogroms and even risked summative execution to establish secret underground



schools. A resistance movement thrived in underground salons, ensuring the cultural life of the city could never disappear. So our very own tale of two cities ended on a positive note.

We may share a troubled past, but can provide living evidence of how the spirit of a city could not be destroyed by bombs and guns. We look forward to the next webinar in March.

Mr Finney, Subject leader, History



The Library

At President Kennedy School

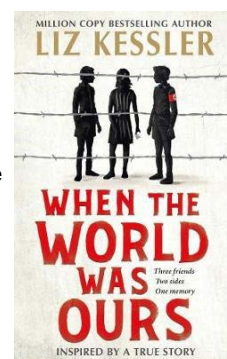
Books to Read

To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January 2022)
This week the Library's recommended reads are....

***When the World Was Ours* by Liz Kessler**

Max, Leo and Elsa are three friends in Vienna in 1936, whose lives are transformed by the course of events over the next nine years. Vienna. 1936. Three young friends spend a perfect day together, unaware that around them Europe is descending into a growing darkness and that events will soon mean that they are ripped apart from each other as their

lives take very different directions...Inspired by a true story, *When the World was Ours* is an extraordinary novel that is as powerful as it is heart-breaking and shows the bonds of love, family and friendship allow glimmers of hope to flourish, even in the most hopeless of times.

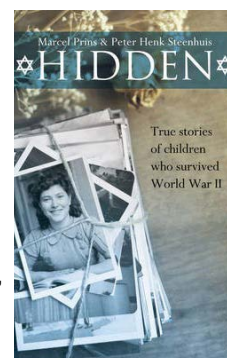


Hidden: True stories of children who survived World War II

Everyone reads the compelling story of Anne Frank and wants to know more. How many others were hidden away during the war? How and where? Were they separated from their families? Did they ever find each other again?

Hidden tells the stories of 14 young people who were hidden throughout the Netherlands during World War Two. Their stories create a wider picture of what it meant to be Jewish in Europe during World War Two, and what it took to survive.

Each story is different: some children were only three years old; some were teenagers. Some hid with neighbours or relatives, while many were with complete strangers. But all know the pain of losing their homes, their families, even their own names. They describe the secret network of brave people who kept them safe, as well as the coincidences and close escapes that made all the difference. The stories in this book are often heartbreaking, but they remind us of the strength and the kindness of others, and the courage that it took to survive.



Both books are available to borrow from the School Library and "***When The World was Ours***" can be read on the Sora the Digital Library too.

Library Staff

We are seeking to appoint an excellent teacher of Computer Science to join one of the school's growing departments. This is an exciting time to join President Kennedy School and the Futures Trust; an ambitious and innovative teacher will thrive in this environment and will be offered plentiful opportunity for further progression.

As a qualified teacher of Computer Science you will possess a passion for raising achievement in this emerging subject and an aptitude for overcoming barriers to learning. Dynamic and creative, you will be an excellent team player and able to inspire others around you

The link to the Computer Science teacher vacancy, job description and the application form is on the job vacancies page of the school website:

www.pks.coventry.sch.uk

Closing date: midday Friday 4th February 2022



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