

# SURVIVAL STORY

## The Holocaust Educational Trust

THE trust was established in 1988 and works in schools, universities and in the community to raise awareness and understanding of the Holocaust.

Since 2005 the Holocaust Educational Trust has received Government funding for its flagship, Lessons from Auschwitz Project, which gives two young people from every school and college in the country the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The trust also played a crucial role in the establishment of Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK.

**By Matthew Stanton**

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A SURVIVOR of the Holocaust who lost her entire family in Nazi concentration camps has spoken to children about life growing up.

Vera Schaufeld, from Wembley, took the time to share her memories with students at Normanhurst School, in Station Road, Chingford.

The 84-year-old spoke to pupils about how she was born into a Jewish family in Prague, Czechoslovakia, which was occupied by the Nazis in 1939 under the orders of Adolf Hitler.

Aged nine she was put on to a train to England but her parents failed to get a visa and after the war ended, in 1945, she was told by letter that none of her family had survived.

Claire Osborn, headteacher at

Normanhurst School, said: "It is a privilege for us to welcome Vera Schaufeld to our school and her testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced. We are grateful to the Holocaust Educational Trust for co-ordinating the visit and we hope that by hearing Vera's testimony, it will encourage our students to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and make a positive difference in their own lives."

After leaving her home country, Vera was taken in by a foster family in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and was sent to a boarding school with the daughter of the family, a girl called Betty.

Her home in Klatovy was destroyed and she never returned.

Vera went on to train as a teacher and after she qualified she spent some time in Israel

where she met her husband of 62 years, Avram.

Karen Pollock, chief executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust, said: "The Holocaust Educational Trust educates and engages students from across the UK, from all communities about the Holocaust and there can be no better way than through the first-hand testimony of a survivor.

"Vera's story is one of tremendous courage during horrific circumstances and by hearing her testimony, students will have the opportunity to learn where prejudice and racism can ultimately lead.

"At the trust, we impart the history of the Holocaust to young people, to ensure that we honour the memory of those whose lives were lost and take forward the lessons taught by those who survived."

## Fact Box

- The term Holocaust, originally from the Greek word "holokauston" which means "sacrifice by fire", refers to the Nazi persecution and planned slaughter of the Jewish people.

- It is estimated that 11 million people were killed during the Holocaust. Six million of these were Jews.

- The Nazis killed approximately two-thirds of all Jews living in Europe. An estimated 1.1m children were murdered in the Holocaust.

- Auschwitz was the largest concentration and extermination camp built. It is estimated that 1.1m people were killed there.

- The Nazis built six extermination camps: Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Auschwitz, and Majdanek. (Auschwitz and Majdanek were both concentration and extermination camps.)

