King Solomon High School Newsletter

30 January 2026, 12 Shevat 5786

Student Council members, including the Head Students, pictured with Mala Tribich MBE

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have been commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day, when we remember the six million Jewish people murdered in Europe during World War II, under the Nazi regime. We also remember the 5 million other people from minority groups who were murdered, such as gay people, people with disabilities and people of minority ethnic groups. The horror and brutality of the Holocaust destroyed entire generations of families and left survivors with unimaginable emotional and physical scars. The Holocaust wiped out 40% of the world's Jewish population, 60% of Europe's Jewish population and between 90-99% of the Jewish population in Germany, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. The Holocaust began with the normalising of prejudice, discrimination and hatred. Our responsibility together, is to ensure our young people are taught about the facts of the Holocaust, and the importance of freedom, democracy and respect for difference. I am extremely proud of how our students have engaged with all the activities this week.

We have marked Holocaust Memorial Day in a number of ways.

Assemblies

- Through assemblies this week students have paused to remember, to reflect, and to engage thoughtfully with one of the darkest chapters in human history.

Redbridge Valentines' Park annual HMD event

- On Monday, a delegation from King Solomon High School attended the Redbridge Holocaust Memorial Day annual event at Valentine's Park. Our Head students Poppy Rosie, Zachary Poole & Madalina Polensche delivered profoundly moving readings on this year's Holocaust Memorial Day theme, *Bridging Generations*.
- We send a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Shutz, ex-head of Jewish studies & senior leader at KS, for her work in preparing KS and WIJPS students who presented at the event.
- We were also honoured to hear a powerful address from Redbridge's highly respected and much-loved Chabad Lubavitch Rabbi, Rabbi Sufrin, who spoke with compassion and moral clarity on behalf of the Jewish community.

Hephzibah Rudovsky

On Wednesday, we were honoured to welcome Hephzibah Rudovsky, daughter of Lady Zahava Kohn, who spoke movingly about her mother's survival of Bergen-Belsen and the lasting impact of trauma across generations. Hephzibah is a much-valued annual visitor to King Solomon High School.

Mala Tribich MBE

It was an extraordinary honour for our school to welcome Holocaust survivor Mala Tribich MBE. Mala spoke to all Y10 and Y11 students about her childhood experiences in a Nazi enforced ghetto and concentration camp. We are also honoured to welcome our twenty special guests who joined us for this important occasion.

- The Right Honourable Wes Streeting, Secretary of state for health and MP for Ilford North
- Michale Goldstein, Co-founder, friend and supporter of King Solomon High School, until very recently president of the US
- Our two most committed local champions - Rabbi Sufrin and Cllr Lloyd Duddridge
- Our Chairs and vice chairs of governors - David Collins, Katie Rose and Jason Levy, along with other members of the governing board
- Headteachers and senior leaders from WIJPS and Clore Tikva
- Mrs Shutz, ex head of Jewish studies for over 20 years here at KS, scholar, leader and still an active member of the school community
- Other friends and guests from the local community

Those of us who have had the honour of hearing the firsthand testimonies of a Holocaust survivor will understand that listening is not a passive act - it is an act of respect, of responsibility, and of remembrance. By hearing survivor testimonies, we not only hear history, but we become its guardians. Remembrance is not only about the past, it is a call to how we live now so we can all commit to Never Again.

Top Achievers - Reward Points

Congratulations to the students who received the highest number of reward points over the last two weeks. Their consistent hard work, positive attitude, and dedication to both academics and school values have been recognised by staff.

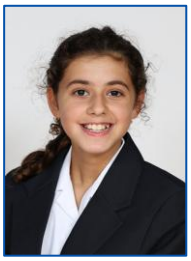
The students with the highest number of reward points are:

Student	Form
Ansh Bindal	8P
Violet Justiniano	8P
Daria Rubei	8P

The students with the highest reward points in each year group are:

Student	Form
Mya Konzon	7G
Ansh Bindal	8P
Maxwell Feldman	9M
Diya Sood	10Z
Ernesta Butko	11A

Keep up the outstanding work!



Mya Konzon 7G

Ansh Bindal 8P

Violet Justiniano 8P

Daria Rubei 8P

Maxwell Feldman 9M

Diya Sood 10Z

Ernesta Butko 11A

GCSE PE - Rock Climbing Assessment

As part of their GCSE assessment, on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th January our Year 11 PE students took on climbing, belaying, traversing, abseiling and a timed speed climb at The Reach Climbing Wall in Woolwich, Southeast London.

Over the two-day assessment, students were required to master an extensive range of technical and physical skills - including some particularly tricky knots - with marks accumulated contributing towards their final GCSE grade. The experience proved both challenging and adrenaline-fuelled, pushing students outside their comfort zones and, in many cases, enabling them to conquer personal fears to achieve strong assessment scores.

By the end of the course the students were understandably exhausted, but they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and should be commended for their resilience, determination and positive attitude throughout.

JLGB - Duke of Edinburgh Training

On Tuesday 20th January, we were pleased to welcome back JLGB, who delivered an introductory session for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Students participated in a range of structured activities, including first aid training, team-building exercises, guidance on essential equipment and emergency procedures.

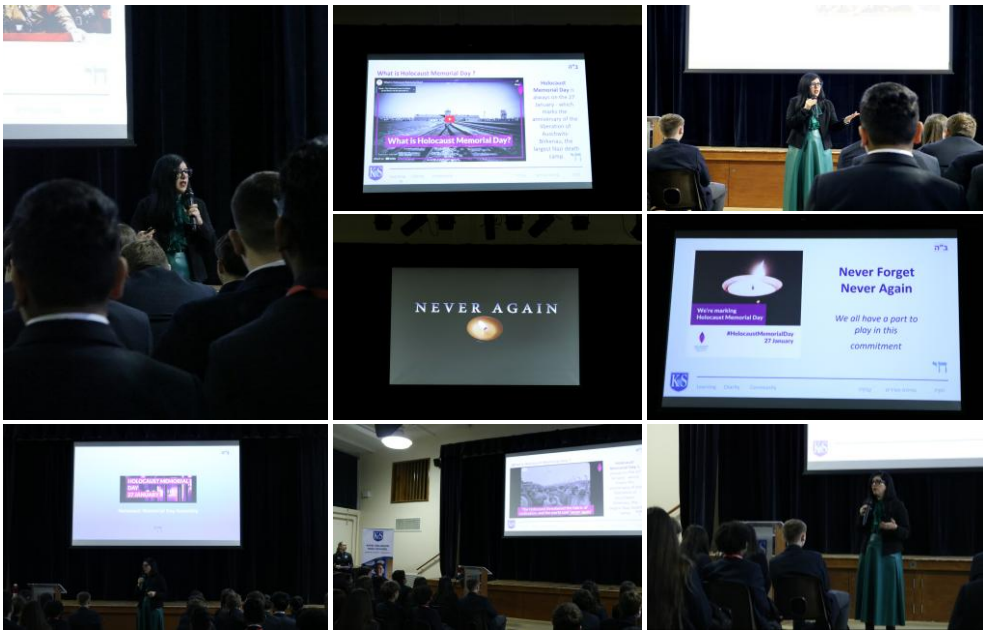
Students engaged positively throughout the session, demonstrating enthusiasm and commitment. We look forward to hearing about the expedition experiences of those students who choose to enrol.

Registration remains open. It is not too late to sign your child up; for further information, please click here and contact JLGB directly.

Holocaust Memorial Day - Events

Assemblies

This week, we marked Holocaust Memorial Day 2026 with a special programme of events, starting with powerful and meaningful HMD assemblies delivered by Ms Phillips.



Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration service at Valentines Park

On Tuesday 27th January, members of the student council, including the head students, accompanied by Ms Phillips and Mrs Spurling, attended the Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration service at the Holocaust Memorial Gardens in Valentines Park.

Zachary Poole, Madalina Polensche, Daniel Szybiak and Poppy Rose (pictured in the back row from left to right) delivered poignant and reflective readings. They did the school immensely proud, speaking with grace and sensitivity that honoured the profound significance of the occasion.

Hephzibah Rudovsky, daughter of Lady Zahava Kohn - Surviving the Holocaust

On Wednesday 28th January, we were honoured to welcome Hephzibah Rudovsky, daughter of Lady Zahava Kohn, who spoke movingly about her mother's survival of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and the enduring impact of trauma across generations. Hephzibah is an annual and much-valued visitor to King Solomon High School.

Students were deeply engaged by this powerful story of resilience, listening attentively and posing thoughtful, insightful questions.

Mala Tribich MBE

On Friday 30th January, King Solomon High School was truly honoured to welcome guest speaker Mala Tribich MBE, who shared her powerful story of survival, loss and resilience with students, staff and esteemed guests, including the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP.

Mala spoke about her early childhood in Piotrków Trybunalski, Poland, which she described as happy and ordinary until it was shattered by the Nazi invasion.
She spoke about life in the first ghetto in Poland, survival through Ravensbrück and Bergen-Belsen, and witnessing liberation in 1945.

Despite immense loss, Mala rebuilt her life and continues to educate young people, urging us to remember, challenge hatred and take responsibility for creating a better world.

Students were deeply moved by Mala's testimony, listening attentively and respectfully throughout, and asking thoughtful and insightful questions at the end.

It was a profoundly powerful experience that will live with all who heard her speak, and we are truly privileged as a school to have welcomed Mala to King Solomon High School.

Hephzi Rudovsky - 28.01.2026

Mala Tribich MBE - 30.01.2026

Mala Tribich MBE - 30.01.2026