

## Suggestions for creative and cross-curricular activities based on the HMD 2010 theme Legacy of Hope. (Primary, Secondary and post 16)

*These ideas may be adapted for use with all age ranges at primary, secondary and post 16. Teachers are encouraged to develop activities to match the age, aptitude and interests of their particular students.*

### Stage one: Preparation

#### **Explain**

Every year on 27<sup>th</sup> January we join with millions of other people in the UK and across the world to remember the victims of the Holocaust. We also think about other victims of Nazi persecution and those who have died in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and present day Darfur. Hundreds of events take place around the UK and everyone who takes part makes a promise to learn the lessons of the Holocaust. If this is a real promise then it needs to be more than words. We want to encourage people to learn about the Holocaust, listen to true stories from survivors and then take positive action to create a **Legacy of Hope** to carry into the future. We want people to commit to challenging unfairness, prejudice and discrimination in their local community, across the UK and around the world. However if we want people to join **The Legacy of Hope** and make a commitment we need to think about what we are asking them to do and how we may help them.

#### **Explore the concepts;** Legacies and Hope

**Write** "Legacy" as a heading on the board. **Ask** students where and in what context they have heard or seen the word before. List their ideas. The most likely responses will be linked with legal matters, finance and wills e.g. Great Uncle Harry left a legacy for Dad, I will leave a legacy to an animal charity in my will, but other suggestions may include the creative work left by an artist, writer or musician, something which lives on after their death or the contribution made to human rights or world peace by a political leader or a scholarship for a young student or artist created as a gift many years ago or progress in scientific or medical research which grew from the work of an individual or group.

If you are working with **primary students**, you may need to **introduce** the word Legacy for the first time and give them two examples from the above list.

**Explore the concept** of a legacy as being something which lives on independent of the person who created it. **Discuss** how a legacy links the past with both the present and future.

Next **discuss** students' understanding of Hope. **Ask** them what fills them with Hope. Is there always room for hope, even in the depths of despair? If you have time, this might be a good place to use one or more of the HMD 2010 case studies. Is there evidence of hope in the story? Then focus on the students themselves and their feelings about the modern world. What do they hope for in the future, for themselves, for their local community, for the world?

**Think together...**

...about actions and promises. **Link** the two words, Legacy and Hope together. If we think about legacies we are also thinking about promises and responsibilities - a promise from the person leaving a legacy and the responsibility of the people who receive it. What do students think a **Legacy of Hope** really means and what should it be? Think about the needs of the world, the UK and the local community. How could we create a **Legacy of Hope** to encourage people to challenge acts of hatred, discrimination, prejudice and exclusion? Think of a situation or situations in school/college or the local community where unfairness exists. Could we do something practical to challenge it or draw attention to it so that we could actually bring about a more fair and inclusive society? How could we create our own **Legacy of Hope** for HMD 2010? **Primary students** might find it easier to think in terms of what is fair, what is unfair and what changes they could help people to make.

Stage Two

Building a Legacy of Hope

**Give** the group a briefing sheet to help them

*Briefing Sheet (Secondary/Post 16)*

Remember

- 1 We need to tell people what our **Legacy of Hope** will be. How can we communicate our ideas?
- 2 We need to provide people with evidence that our **Legacy of Hope** is necessary.
- 3 We need to encourage people to care enough to want to join in our **Legacy of Hope** or create their own.
- 4 We can set people an example and give them ideas for their own promises.

*Briefing Sheet (Primary)*

Remember to think about

- 1 How are we going to make our special promise?
- 2 Why are we making a promise and what will it be?
- 3 How can we tell people about it?
- 4 How can we set a good example so other people will make their own promises?

**Work together** to create a **Legacy of Hope** campaign. Here are a few suggestions but the best ones will always be inspired by student choice. Try to **encourage** cross-curricular collaboration and individual student enquiry. Where possible **encourage** students to think about the stories within the HMD case studies or ideas reflected in the theme paper. You don't have to give students the full text but you could **make your own summary** of a selected story as suitable for the age and aptitude of the group. The activities below can be adapted for primary, secondary and post 16 students.

### **Focus on the Media**

Study local, national and international media coverage over the period of one weekend, you may use news found in the national and local press, Sunday supplements, magazines, internet sites, social networking, TV and radio. Note all stories which contain hope e.g. positive human action, the development of trust between different groups of people, a simple act of kindness.

Using some of your highlighted stories devise a power-point presentation showing where hope has been found. Younger **primary students** could make a collage from hope filled newspaper headings or pictures.

OR

Think about fairness and inclusion and focus on all the positive actions taken in your school/college over the period of a week, link these with the idea of a **Legacy of Hope** and write an article highlighting them for your local newspaper or magazine. In your article say how these actions can carry a message of hope into the future.

**Primary students** could think about simple acts of kindness in their school and the class could compose a letter together, with the classroom assistant or teacher writing it up on the board.

### **Focus on the written word**

The written word can draw attention to the plight of others. The UK is a democracy with freedom of speech, provided that freedom does not hurt other people. In a democracy writing letters to people of influence is a good way of getting a message heard. With this in mind, write a letter to an MP or a person with influence in the local community or a favourite celebrity. Tell them about your **Legacy of Hope**, why it is important and why you would like them to make a similar promise.

OR

Create a **Legacy of Hope** promise statement showing what your community can leave for future generations. Display your statement in prominent places and encourage people to sign it. Send copies of the statement to the local paper, leaders of local faith communities, youth groups and community organisations. Display it in the library.

OR

Compose a simple text or email message about your **Legacy of Hope** promise, which could be sent to lots of people on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

Creative writing can also be used to help people listen to the voices of the past and carry a **Legacy of Hope** into the future. Take one of the case studies and write a short poem dedicated to one of the people featured. Your title should refer specifically to the person e.g. listening to Ben, A promise for Hugo. You could read your poems in assembly or at an HMD event. **Primary students** could write poems in groups or work together as a whole class.

#### **Focus on fashion and design with ICT**

Design a number of fashion accessories to complement a January wardrobe. The items you design should appeal to young people who want to make a fashion statement but they should also show that those who wear them have chosen to join the **Legacy of Hope**.

Using your ICT skills, prepare a catalogue or marketing leaflet featuring the items you have designed

OR

Wearing your favourite winter clothes, put on a fashion show which displays both the items designed to their best advantage and carries the **Legacy of Hope** message.

OR

On your computer, design bookmarks to give to family and friends which carry a clear **Legacy of Hope** message on the front. On the back leave a space for people to write what they will do as part of the **Legacy of Hope**. Print as many copies as you can and encourage people to take one for themselves and one to give to a friend. When you hand them out make sure you tell people that on the back of the bookmark they can write down their own promise for HMD 2010. Your local library may display some at their issue desk or you could slip some into books in your school or college library.

#### **Focus on the expressive and creative arts**

People enjoy viewing works of art or attending concerts and presentations of music, drama and dance. Creative work can be very useful for communicating serious and important messages. Members of Oneg Shabbat knew this and used their creativity to record their reactions to events taking place in the ghetto and to convey a message to future generations. Work together to create performance and exhibition pieces based on the **Legacy of Hope** theme. Your creations could stand alone as art, music, drama and dance pieces in their own right or you could work together across subjects and blend your ideas into one creative piece. You could also use the poems created by the English teams as inspiration.

## Music

Compose a modern piece of music to be performed by a school/college orchestra or band. Call your piece **Legacy of Hope**. It should begin in a minor key with sounds representing suffering, exclusion and sadness but should end with joyful sounds celebrating difference and rejoicing in the human spirit.

OR

Create the words and music for a short song suitable for children to sing in a concert. Call your song "A Promise For The Future." Use the song to tell people what children can do to bring a hopeful message to the world and make sure that the song has a catchy chorus which helps people remember three things which we should find in a future filled with hope.

## Drama

Imagine that another 65 years have gone by and it is now the year 2075. A valuable document, the **Legacy of Hope** message written by you and other young people in 2010, has just been put on display in an exhibition. Improvise a scene which shows how your original message has influenced the future.

OR

Take Hugo Gryn's words which begin "Time is short and the task is urgent....Evil is real, so is good. There is a choice" and using them, whilst thinking about making the world a safer and fairer place for everyone, improvise two short scenes to illustrate a few of the choices human being face in 21st century Britain.

## Dance

In the **Legacy of Hope** theme paper we are asked to "Listen, for a change." Remembering at least two key points from a story in one of the HMD 2010 case studies and taking the words "listen", "change", "action", "hope" and "future", work in groups to create a series of images to represent each one. Experiment with ways to move from image to image or around each group and create a dance piece called "Message to the Future."

## Visual Art

Think about what we need to learn from the past and carry into the future. Focus on the best possible promises for a **Legacy of Hope** and create a three dimensional piece called "The past through future eyes." You could try to be green and use only recycled materials. Think about the messages contained in your work and try to encourage people to contribute to a **Legacy of Hope** by adding their own promise to a section of the piece or create a second unfinished piece, to which viewers are invited to contribute in order to complete the work.

### Stage Three Invitations to join **The Legacy of Hope**

Whatever activities you choose remember the most important task is to draw attention to the HMD 2010 **Legacy of Hope**. Your aim is to encourage others to join you and millions of others in the **Legacy of Hope**. You should challenge people to make a commitment to learn from the past and take action in the present to provide a positive message for the future and create a safer and fairer society.

Invite as many people as possible to view your work. Encourage them to listen to your Legacy of Hope message. Ask them to do something positive. Contact your local press and TV networks and let them know why you created your **Legacy of Hope**.