

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional Careers Hub initiative for Careers Leaders
Curriculum Provision	✓	Year 8 History: Life for Jews in Nazi Germany
Employer Partnerships	✓	Involving a local Jewish charity
Reflective Young People	✓	Encouraging a mature approach to a challenging topic
Informed Career Choices	✓	Presenting positive role models for Higher Education

University students help Year 8 engage with the 'intense' topic of The Holocaust

Year 8 students at Oasis Academy Brislington learn about the Holocaust through a 9-lesson scheme of work, which covers topics that include 'What was life like for Jews in Nazi Germany?', 'How were Jews portrayed in Nazi Germany?', 'How was the law changed to discriminate against Jews?', 'What was the role of the concentration camps?', 'How were people de-humanised?'

The History teachers shared that 'This is an intense topic for both staff and students and is taught a year earlier than previously due to the shortening of KS3. Some students lack the maturity to engage with the topic responsibly.'

An approach to the Rabbi of 'Chabad of Bristol' met with a positive response: 'Thanks for reaching out and apologies for the delayed response, it has been a busy month with Chanukah etc. I'd be happy to help out in this special project.'

The charity works with Jewish students at the University of Bristol and they invited half a dozen to send short video messages recorded on their mobile phones, telling the Year 8 group:

- My name and where I am from
- What I am studying at Bristol and what motivated me to go to university
- What it means to be a Jew and part of a Jewish community while away from home
- About a family connection with Holocaust and impact on life today ... if appropriate

The video clips were used as part of the package of learning resources for the scheme of work.

Benefits for the Students

- The project helped to achieve ideal outcomes defined at the outset, including for students to 'engage confidently with issues such as discrimination, racism and guilt' and 'understand and explain why this is the only mandatory topic for KS3 history in the national curriculum'.
- Along with the video clips, the Rabbi fed back that at least one of the university students found it was too emotional to talk about a family story associated with this period in history.
- As well as bringing a History topic to life, the project gave Key Stage 3 students a chance to hear undergraduate talking positively about university life and studies.

Benefits for the School

- Teacher evaluation revealed that the project improved learning skills, improved student confidence, showed effective use of working with employers and improved teaching practise.
- The evaluation also recorded 'yes' to the questions: Do you have a better understanding of the process to achieve effective careers in the curriculum? Do you feel confident to do more of this in your teaching? Do you feel you can share your learning with colleagues so they too can use it?

Benefits for the Employer

- Chabad of Bristol serves as a community centre uniting Bristol's Jewish community, and as a resource for Jews across the southwest region of England.
- The charity normally visits schools to give 'hands-on presentations on Judaism', but this was not possible due to COVID restrictions. The History project allowed the organisation to engage with a year group of students in spite of the circumstances.



Year 8 students were given a fresh perspective on life within Jewish communities in Nazi Germany by hearing from undergraduate students who were part of the 'Chabad' Jewish community at the University of Bristol. They recorded informal but powerful video messages about the impact that being Jewish has on their everyday lives – and talked about their courses and aspirations.

