

CORE Education Trust's Echo Eternal is a commemorative arts engagement programme inspired by Holocaust survivor testimony to promote respect and understanding between different communities.

Exhibition Guide

This guide is a supporting document for the online Echo Eternal Exhibition 2021

Be the Light in the Darkness

Introduction

"How does one mourn for six million people who died? How many candles does one light? How many prayers does one recite? Do we know how to remember the victims, their solitude, their helplessness? They left us without a trace, and we are their trace." Elie Wiesel

I am privileged to be invited for the second year to curate the Echo Eternal Exhibition. Last year, the iconic setting of Coventry Cathedral, and this year transported to you, wherever you are. While I yearn for real life experiences, I think it provides an opportunity to view the work in your own time, when you are ready. I do not intend this exhibition to be a passive experience. I invite you to explore the journeys that have brought us to this time, to contemplate moments of hope and stand together with the schools, partners and survivors for a better future, starting today and ask how will you make a difference?

I pledge to always speak out when I see injustice and hate, ask those challenging questions, and remember the names of the wonderful souls who gifted their testimonies to inspire us all to be better.

Nicola Richardson

Journey

“You can feel sorry for yourself and go under, or you can look it in the face, whatever situation and say, I can’t change it and I have to accept it. You have to apply every possible strength, and the brain helps you, to overcome every difficulty, whatever is presented to you. It is your attitude to life”

Zdenka Fantlova

Be the light in the darkness

Pupils from Birmingham Children’s Hospital

James Brindley Academy

This chair was created by the children at Birmingham Children’s Hospital, aged between 11 and 15. The inspiration taken from Chinese shadow puppets, linking with the theme: The light through the darkness. The silhouettes tell a story of the initial pain and torture from the Holocaust combined with a hopeful future. Figures and symbols uniting, represented by the star of David, signify our love and respect for each other and the world which we live.

Journeys – light in the dark

Year 4 Pupils

Judith Kerr Primary School, working with Dulwich College

The pupils explored the difficult journey Judith and her family had to make, the children discussed how she had to leave things behind and make hard choices. They also discussed the fear of the unknown and how frightening it is to have to leave you home and everything you know and go to a place you don’t know, don’t speak the language and have to start your life again. The children then used their imaginative drawings of the journeys to make puppets. Each puppet covered their interpretation of the story, and the children brought them to life with performances.

The Kindertransport Train

Reception Pupils

Nelson Mandela School

Kurt Taussig's journey on the train (his journey from Prague to London on Kindertransport). For him, this was an exciting journey and the children have reflected on this by making the train bright and colourful.

"It was as far as I was concerned a train journey, "Lucky me," ah, I couldn't ah, on the train, this boy 14, ya know, What better things could happen?"

The Lost Train

Year 9 Pupils

City Academy

Inspired by Maurice Blik's testimony.

Hiding in the Hills

Year 6 Pupils

Nelson Mandela School

Kurt Taussig's testimony. As a child they hid in the hills, near the forest.

"Yes. It was originally a summer camp of, er, wooden huts in the middle of a forest up in the hills, er, entirely meant for youngsters to enjoy themselves in their, um, summer holidays. Unsuitable for winter but, er, it was better than nothing. So we were there, er, it was provided by the, er, father's, um, er, social union that he belonged, the Jewish soc, social union. And, er, as there was no alternative we went there. It's, er, it's quite desolate and, and way off the beaten track"

Children considered how they could show this place, whilst reflecting the theme of 'light in the darkness'

The Tin Ring

Year 9 Pupils

Nishkam High School

All students at NHSB reflected upon the testimony of Zdenka Fantlova. Some depicted scenes from her life, but others reflected upon the main themes of her message, and what it meant to them. A series of images reflecting Zdenka's message, the tin ring, and the theme of 'Be the light in the darkness'.

The tin ring is of particular significance in Zdenka's story, as it was given to her by Arno who did not survive the Holocaust.

The Tin Ring

Year 9 Pupils

Nishkam High School

Two hands surrounding Zdenka's tin ring, inside of which Arno proposes to Zdenka.

A Ripple Wave of Shadows Enveloped by Healing Light

Years 7 – 9 Pupils

Arena Academy

Students have been engaging with the testimony of Hedi Frankl to develop small multi-layered collages that have been placed into the delicate structure of a teabag. The teabags were then trapped in a layer of wax, encasing the symbols and images of evil within. Students witnessed that present day Hedi was often represented by cups of tea and friends. The teabag structure has been employed to represent small acts of kindness and often provides a comforting environment to deal with life's challenges.

The wax penetrates through the collage and teabag structure which creates a transparent effect. The individual structures are then embellished and sewn together to create a ripple like installation where light penetrates through, revealing the layers underneath. The ripple form stems from the concept of the 'ripple effect'; the notion that one small action, word or opinion can have wider repercussions, far beyond the initial experience.

Kurt Taussig Triptych

Year 5 Pupils

Nelson Mandela School

Inspired by Kurt Taussig's testimony and considering the positive elements of his experience.

The number he was given for the two labels relating to his journey from Prague to London on Kindertransport.

'The train was standing there. It wasn't going through. It just stood there waiting and, er, hundreds of children got on there. I believe 1200, no, one th, 250. Er, my number was 252.'

His memory of his mother.

'When I was young, there were five of us, mother, father and three sons and er, father was a, father was a saint, mother was an angel, the three kids were three kids'

His dream of being a pilot being realized when he joined the RAF.

'You wanted to be a pilot since you were a very small child?' 'Yeah! Just by sticking my arms out.'. Interview with Natasha Kaplinsky

Light at the end of the tunnel

Ellie, Rahma, Jada, Soraia, Ladan, Detroy, Year 9

Jewellery Quarter Academy

The tunnel shows light from the dark period in Zigi Shipper's life. The number is still visible because events will always influence his life and the number is always in his mind.

The branches of the tree are arching over the tunnel as protection. The leaves are a variety of memories from his past, but they have an aura of colour because of his positive attitude towards unhappy events. The tree is old and wise.

The truck shows the journey through the dark period of his life, arriving to now. He is sharing his experiences with other people. We added a colourful aura to show his positive message on his negative experience.

Mady's Memories

Morsal, Laiba, Aala, Aqsa, Safiya, Saira, Umaan, Imaan, Aliza, Salma, Denisa, Year 8

Rockwood Academy

It is a card and mod-roc construction of a jewellery box that acts as the room Mady was kept against her will. Inside is a silhouette of the guard who set her free holding a torch. Inside the box and on the base are images that are special to Mady and words to show her emotions and what it must have been like for her. The mod-roc hands symbolise hope which are holding the jewellery box, there are faint images on the box to signify war and the fact she wanted to feed people. There are also handmade jewellery spilling out of the box of things she used to do to give her hope.

Light at the end of the tunnel

Dan T, Year 7

Southam College

Photo taken at the start of lockdown and edited to black and white to illustrate the survivors from the Holocaust emerging from dark into light at the end of world war 2.

Hope

"It's just having the right kind of attitude to life and enjoying to the fullest as much as I can- dancing. And I hope I will be dancing a few more years."

Dov Reichman

Holding Light

Ed Year 12

Southam College

"Nothing should be out of the reach of hope. Life is hope"

A combination of photography and digital light painting.

Light

Year 9 Pupils

Nishkam High School

A sun shines behind a person sitting solitarily by a tree, all of which are thrown into shadow in contrast with the light of the sun

Zigi's bright window

Telpher

Jewellery Quarter Academy

Portraits mirror imaged and broken down into sections, to resample stain glass in a room. The floor is chequerboard to show an old-fashioned floor.

The work is to resemble stain glass windows in a room as a response to Zigi's testimony. The dark to light theme has been responded by creating windows that reflect light into a room. The colours are bright to give the piece a positive image because Zigi's message is a positive one and not of hate. The floor is old-fashioned to remind us of the past.

Hope

Hamza, Kirsty, Udaiyah, Solomon

Selly Oak Trust School

Inspired by Christian Boltanski, students have taken the message that resonated with them from Susie's testimony and used candle-light and mini-sculpture to create a moving visual. It has also been made into a short film is and is accompanied by music performed by students, using 7 notes that drone for quiet contemplation. Students have taken still photos of the art installation for the exhibition.

'Hope' remains fragile, symbolised by the shadows of the letters. The light in the darkness, being provided by the candles which provide illumination, warmth and comfort on our collective journey linking memory, experience, history and hope for a brighter future. Together.

Hope

Year 9 Pupils

Nishkam High School

A golden heart, in which a message of hope shines as a light.

The Virtues of the Ring

Year 9 Pupils

Nishkam High School

Zdenka's Tin Ring, with the virtues of her story shining out from it, creating light within the darkness.

Zdenka and Arno

Year 9 Pupils

Nishkam High School

Zdenka's tin ring, encircling a heart representing the love between Zdenka and Arno.

A World of Light

Years 9 Pupils

Nishkam High School

A representation of the globe, clouded in places by darkness, but also lit in others by the growing light

The Light in the Darkness

Year 9 Pupils

Nishkam High School

A landscape picture of a prayer candle and the Star of David.

Waheguru

Year 9 Pupils

Nishkam High School

The Ik Onkar amidst a sunrise, the light of which casts over the ocean to two eternal flames on the shore.

Remembering the Positives

Emily Year 9

Southam College

Acrylic paint used to highlight that we should focus on the positives in life

The Roots of Light

Year 9 Pupils

Nishkam High School

A tree growing in the darkness but lit by a distant sun, blossoming in the light.

Hope!

Emily Year 8

Southam College

I took this photograph using my phone and positioning a white rose above my bedside light. The effect I managed to create has a powerful contrast between the white of the rose and the black background, between light and darkness. The light coming from below enhances the white petals showing, at the same time, their delicate structure as well as their strength. This picture gives me a sense of solid and beautiful hope.

Lanterns

Year 3 Pupils

Nelson Mandela School

Being a light in the Darkness

Light in Nature

Bella Year 10

Southam College

This artwork highlights that through light we see true nature and the minutest details within nature. It focuses on the key element of light and how light can bring out the positives.

Standing Together

"When you see someone drowning, you have to extend a hand, whether you know how to swim or not."

Lilit Pohlmann

Be the light in the darkness

Pupils from Dovedale, Northfield and Parkway Teaching Centres, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Willows Centre, Ardenleigh Medium Secure Forensic Unit and Newbridge House.

James Brindley Academy

Inspired by Harry Spiro's testimony pupils recreated his vision for 'tolerance' and 'hope' in the form of light and darkness. The pieces sit together to represent the ongoing discussions and communication to immortalise the atrocities in prevention that it will never happen again and we live in harmony.

Światło Jest Moim Zbawcą - The Light is my Saviour

Aminat, Djeinabou, Akiel, Marion, Brianna, Derroy

Jewellery Quarter Academy

An impression of light is created in colourful rays of sunshine. The portrait of Zigi is placed in the middle because his story is the inspiration for the piece. Zigi's message is to forgive and not hate. The keywords are projected onto the piece using a strong light. We used the light to represent the light from the darkness.

Hidden Star from Within

KS2 Pupils

Ark Victoria Academy

Coloured cards each with a handwritten pledge by the students that have been laminated and linked together to make a large collaborative hanging curtain/installation.

Artist Christian Boltanski – Monument 1989 was used as inspiration for the piece

Hidden Star from Within - detail

KS2 Pupils

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Let the Peace of the Dove Shine Through

Iqra

Jewellery Quarter Academy

The words "Do not hate" are inspired by Zigi's testimony and signify forgiveness. Zigi says that hate will hurt the victim and he says to let go of it in order to live peacefully as one. The fact that the colours are shining out of the dove symbolise peace. Each colour symbolise a meaning: yellow for the Jewish star of David, Red for the blood that was spilled, Green for growth, Blue for the blue sky ahead and a bright future.

Pledges

Year 9 Pupils

Southam College

Year 9 students at Southam College have created their own pledges in response to Dov Reichmann's Holocaust testimony. The students' pledges highlight and capture Dov's experience and survival of the Holocaust

Education takes an incredibly long time' (Ruth David) (series of 5)

Year 9 Pupils

Finham Park School

'Be the light in the darkness' and 'Standing together' and Ruth David's Holocaust survivor testimony are themes that we have used to inspire and generate our work for this year's campaign day workshops. Seven year nine students designed and created spoken word responses to a set of questions based on testimony.

To bring Ruth's story to life and to share with a wider community audience our students shared their written and spoken word responses on the afternoon of our campaign day in an on-line Microsoft Teams recorded event. The words and recorded messages from this event are printed with light based medium on to an aluminium metallic surface in response to the brief and to the title theme. This series of work was designed to mark the campaign day outcomes and to bring a sense of permanence to the work created.

Be the light in the darkness

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