



***NEWS RELEASE! NEWS RELEASE! NEWS RELEASE!***

## **COLLEGE COMMEMORATES THE HOLOCAUST**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009

**Students and staff at Cambridge Regional College (CRC) will remember the victims of the Holocaust at a memorial observance held at the College next week. The event will place in recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day, which will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> January.**

At 11am a Hebrew prayer will be said, followed by the lighting of a symbolic candle to signify mourning, remembrance, hope and light, to remember all innocent victims, both of the Holocaust and the many post-war genocides. Representatives from the College's Multi-faith Chaplaincy will join in the commemorative event to be held in the main mall at the Science Park campus.

There will be a stand to provide students with information on the Holocaust and other atrocities, focussing on this year's theme "Stand Up to Hatred". Students will have the opportunity to remember all innocent victims of anti-Semitism and extremism, but also to reflect upon more recent atrocities driven by hate.

The College has established a link with the Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue, whose Co-Chair Paul Van Den Hulks, will also be taking part in the day's events. Paul said: "I am honoured to be representing the Synagogue and the Jewish community in commemorating the Holocaust Memorial Day with Cambridge Regional College, and grateful to the College for commemorating the day".

He will be speaking to staff and students, before lighting the candle and reciting a Hebrew prayer. He added, "The displays in the College and the act of remembrance provide a

great opportunity to reach out to young people who often do not know about the Holocaust, and for them to consider how they approach people of different faiths."

The College is committed to working for community and social cohesion; valuing and respecting our and encouraging all of our students to do the same.

Rev Chris Wilson, the College's Chaplain and lead on Social Cohesion added, "In these troubled times, it is too easy to allow people of a faith to be used as a scapegoat for the actions of others. We reject these easy assumptions at CRC; and value all of our students, whatever their faith or belief, recognising that we live best together, when we celebrate our diversity and respect our differences. In marking the Holocaust, we are also remembering all genocides, including reference to the 100,000 Jehovah's Witnesses and others who have suffered".

This year, two College students and a member of staff have been nominated to take part in two seminars and a one day visit to the former extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The "Lessons from Auschwitz" Project is organised by The Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) and has already taken nearly 5,000 students and teachers on this innovative course, which is based on the premise that "hearing is not the same as seeing".

The College is fully committed to equal opportunities and encourages all students to treat others with respect, regardless of their differences. These latest events form part of a string of multi-faith and commemorative events that the College has organised in recent months, which included Eid and Christmas.

**ENDS**

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, please contact Lesley Devaney, PR & Events Coordinator, on 01223 418773 or email [ldevaney@camre.ac.uk](mailto:ldevaney@camre.ac.uk)