

Anne Frank to inspire local teens as new education programme is announced in West Midlands.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Anne Frank Trust UK has received funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to run the Anne Frank Schools and Ambassadors Programme in the West Midlands for the first time. The programme gives young people the opportunity to explore Anne's story and the history of the Holocaust, and shape their attitudes on issues that affect them in the 21st century. The funding will allow the Trust to work intensely with seven Birmingham secondary schools; including Heartlands Academy, Holyhead School and Yardsley School.

To help kick start the work in the region, local teens are invited to participate in the Trust's year-long digital diary writing campaign Generation Diary, in a one-off exclusive workshop held at Birmingham Library on 17th February. The campaign calls upon all 13-15 year olds, (the age Anne Frank was when writing her diary) to upload diary entries in text, image or video forms on to the dedicated website. The year-long campaign, which was launched on Anne Frank's birth date 12th June, has received hundreds of entries so far from participating young teens across the UK, exploring a variety of themes including discrimination, health and disability, current affairs, love, friendship and general teen life issues.

As well as attending the Generation Diary workshop, the young teens will also have the opportunity to visit the acclaimed Anne Frank: a History for Today exhibition on the day, and contribute to an open discussion, taking both a historical and contemporary look at Anne Frank's story, lead by regional manager Donna Magher. "I am extremely privileged with being tasked to roll out the Anne Frank Schools Programme across Birmingham. Having spent some time in Scotland recently seeing the impact that this innovative programme can have with young people I feel that bringing the 'Anne Frank: a History for Today' exhibition and workshops in to our schools and community can only be a positive move towards tackling prejudice and discrimination in the local region".

To book tickets for this one-off event, please visit.....spaces are limited and workshops will be held in two back to back sessions.

For further information or press enquiries, please contact Siama Khan at the Anne Frank Trust UK on 0207 284 5858 or siama@annefrank.org.uk

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Notes to editors

Anne Frank Trust UK

On her 13th birthday Anne Frank was given a diary in which she recorded her thoughts and feelings before and whilst in hiding in Amsterdam from Nazi persecution. Following Anne's death at age 15, in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945, her father, Otto Frank, chose to publish her diary in order to help challenge the hatred that had killed his daughters.

Founded in 1990, the Anne Frank Trust UK uses Anne's life and inspirational message as an anchor to educate people about damage caused by all forms of prejudice and discrimination. The Trust enters the lives of young people across the country when they are likely to be at their most vulnerable and impressionable and imbues in them the importance of positive attitudes, personal responsibility and respect for others. It does this through its exhibitions and educational programmes in schools, prisons and community settings, educating 30,000 young people a year. www.annefrank.org.uk

Anne Frank Trust Schools Programme

The Anne Frank Trust's schools programme has been running since 2006 and been taken into hundreds of schools across the UK. With Anne Frank's life and diary as a starting point, the programme looks at the dangers of prejudice and discrimination, and helps young people to develop respectful and responsible attitudes. Over a two-week period, the acclaimed exhibition Anne Frank: a History for Today is taken in to school where a group of students are trained to peer-guide other young students around the exhibition. Accompanying the exhibition, are a range of workshops tackling themes of prejudice, responsibility, resistance, human rights, identity and diversity. Peer guides are then selected to become Anne Frank Ambassadors, and receive further training and support.

Generation Diary

Generation Diary is a year-long digital diary writing campaign, launched on 12th June, Anne's birth date, inviting young teens aged between 13 and 15 to write a digital diary entry either as a one off or a series of entries. The collection of diary entries will be available to read on the Generation Diary website as well as social media channels, for sharing and inspiring others. Throughout the campaign, an academic research project with the School of Psychology at the University of Kent will be analysing the collection of entries, which in turn will provide an empirical picture of the voice of Britain's teenagers today.