

Knowledge Café 28 November

Location: Learning Resource Centre, The Marist School

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes (3pm – 4.30pm)

Expected number of students: 30

Other schools involved: Heathfield and Salesian College I (TBC)

Staff: Ed Newell, Jan Bock, Emily Gow, Ethan Coombridge, Sarah Galvin, Amber Pierce, Jack Verdun for photography

Supplies required: Study guides, copies of *Darkness over Germany* by Amy Buller

Preparation:

This Knowledge café is aimed at A-level History and Politics students from local 6th forms. Three topics from Amy Buller's book *Darkness over Germany* will be explored:

1. *In the Early Days, a Study in Contrasts*
2. *The Tragedy of the Unemployed Student*
3. *Professor Braun*

These topics are within the *Moral and Spiritual Dilemmas, in Challenging Times* study guide that Cumberland Lodge will provide for every student. Please introduce the study guide to students at school beforehand and ask them to familiarise themselves with the topics outlined above.

Please provide us with:

- The number of students attending from your school (so we can deliver the correct amount of study guides);
- The names of the students for name badges. Each badge assigns a group number.

Cumberland Lodge will provide:

- Free study guides to all students as mentioned above;
- A free copy of *Darkness over Germany* to each lead teacher.

The guides and books will be delivered ahead of time

Aims:

The aim is to:

- Get students thinking and talking about social issues/circumstances that affect them in their life;
- Bring learnings from past experiences in history to the forefront of today's society;
- Promote a more inclusive and open society.

Schedule:

Icebreaker – 5/10mins. German history quiz. Introduce language/terminology for the session

Introduction – 5/10mins. History of Cumberland Lodge, connection with *Darkness over Germany* and explain relevance to the students.

Group work – 45mins

The students will be split into three groups. Three tables will be laid out with large paper (A1) and pens. Each table will focus on a topic. Two Cumberland Lodge staff members will facilitate a 15-minute discussion based on a structure of four key questions. The students will move to the next table and discuss a different topic with the different staff members. Insights that arise will be written

on the large paper by the students (e.g in a spider diagram format). The insights will be discussed with other groups at the end of the Knowledge Café.

Draft questions:

In the Early Days, a Study in Contrasts:

1. What instances of projecting 'the shadow' do we see in society today? *'The shadow' will be defined during the quiz*
2. Have you experienced, or witnessed, ideas that don't align with your own views?
3. What are the most valuable insights you have gained from encountering those with strikingly different views or experiences from your own?
4. How can we protect ourselves and others from being swept along by populist movements?

The Tragedy of the Unemployed Student:

1. What do you see as the biggest pressures facing today's student population?
2. Do you sympathise with Wilhelm or find him intolerable. How might people of different generations respond differently to him?
3. Are there contentious issues between people of different generations in your own families or communities? If so, how might they be addressed?
4. Which communities do you belong to? How could these communities engage more with young people and support them?

Professor Braun:

1. Which communities do you belong to? How do these communities meet the needs of young people searching for meaning and purpose?
2. How comfortable do you feel when discussing doubts or troublesome issues within the communities you belong to?
3. How could you respond to someone like Hermann, who is trapped and wants to escape?
4. What are the 'false religions' of our age, and how might we respond to them?

Discussion - ~25mins

Plan A – Each group chooses the one topic that they most resonated with and takes 5mins to present back to the audience.

Plan B (in case the session is running late) – A large group discussion is had within the whole audience on each topic. Staff can help to facilitate this and encourage students to share their ideas.