

Heartbeat



Monday, 28 February

Issue 20

Prague Special



PoW wow stuns pupils

At 6am on Friday, 11 February, 61 students and ten staff set off on our annual trip to the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany, writes Mrs Garner.

The reason for the visit is to learn more about the history of the mid 20th Century and pay our respects to the millions who lost their lives to persecution as well as to learn about the cultures of Central and Eastern Europe.

Despite a five hour delay due to the closure of the Dartford crossing, we made it to our hotel in Prague as expected at 11am the next day.

On our first afternoon, we took a tram to Prague Castle and then went on a walking tour which took us across the Charles Bridge and into the Old Town square. After some free time for shopping, we took the train back to the hotel for some much needed rest before enjoying a meal at the Hard Rock Café. The next morning, we visited Josefov, the Jewish quarter of Prague which was preserved by the Nazis to be a museum to an extinct race.

We visited several synagogues to learn more about Jewish beliefs and culture. The most thought-provoking of these was the synagogue with the names of all the Czech Jews who were murdered on its walls (more than 70,000), as this helped us appreciate the scale of the atrocity.

Appalling

After a late lunch in the border town of Litomerice, we visited the concentration camp of Terezin, which was mainly used for political prisoners and was where thousands died due to the appalling conditions. The huge cross and Star of David in the memorial cemetery brought home the fact that Nazi persecution was directed at many different groups.

For our last night out in Prague, we took the train to a bowling centre to let off some steam after an emotionally challenging day.

The next day we travelled to Poland and arrived at our accommodation in the village of Auschwitz at about 5pm. We were greeted by Sister Mary to this 'Catholic

Centre for Dialogue' and were immediately made aware of our location by the many wall displays dedicated to the Holocaust but also to the reconciliation process during the post-war period and to more recent attempts to combat racism around the world.

After dinner, we held a creative quiz in which we all took part and had a great time showing off our various talents.

The following morning, we visited the concentration and death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Many in the group were overwhelmed by the mountains of human hair, shoes, suitcases, glasses and other personal belongings on display in Auschwitz 1, every item representing a real person who had been murdered (many of them children).

We also visited the punishment cells where Maximilian Kolbe, amongst many others, lost his life. This time, there was no snow so we were able to visit many sites at Birkenau which are usually inaccessible. It was still -10 and we struggled

to understand how anyone could survive here wearing only pyjamas and clogs.

We finished our tour by holding a ceremony of remembrance at the Birkenau memorial. We laid six candles in the shape of a cross and a red rose. Several students read prayers written by survivors and then we said the *Eternal Rest*.

After some quiet time for reflection about how the things we had seen could change our daily lives, we began our journey to Wroclaw, arriving at our hotel in the early evening.

After dinner in the hotel, we held a disco in the function suite and all had an absolutely brilliant time with everyone getting up on the dance floor (teachers and drivers included).

The next day we travelled to Germany, stopping off at a Polish service station in order to buy tacky souvenirs for a competition (doing our bit to boost the Polish economy).

We arrived in Berlin mid-afternoon and took some time out to chill in our rooms before visiting a restaurant next to the Brandenburg Gate for dinner. After dinner, we walked through the gate to symbolise our freedom to do so (it was formerly in No Man's Land between the two walls) and to admire the Gate all lit up. We then went bowling again and a fine time was had by all.

The next morning we had a guided tour of Berlin visiting the Reichstag, the Unter Den Linden and spending a fortune in the famous chocolate shop. We also stopped off at the Holocaust Memorial where, as always, our students were extremely respectful. Those staff who knew Leon Bog-



art (a former student who passed away in 2005) laid roses in memory of him (he came on this trip twice and really loved Berlin). After free time for shopping in Berlin city centre, we visited the House of the Wannsee conference, where top Nazis and industrialists met in 1942 to discuss the logistics of murdering Europe's 11,000,000 Jews. We also had some free time in the town of Potsdam.

Our last night in Berlin was spent at another Hard Rock Café, this time with a live band.

As a reward for their good behaviour throughout the trip, we decided to take the students once again to Berolina Bowling so that we could all socialise for a bit longer.

On our final morning, we took the train to the Checkpoint Charlie Museum which is all about the escape attempts across the

Berlin Wall. A great deal of bartering was done to buy gas masks and other memorabilia from the street sellers before we got the train to Zoo Centre for Lunch and free time.

In the afternoon we visited Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp where thousands of German political prisoners were incarcerated in the 1930's followed by prisoners from more than 40 countries during WW2. One such prisoner was Pastor Martin Niemoller, who made the following statement from which we can learn a great deal:

'In Germany they first came for the Communists and Socialists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist or a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Trade Unionist.



The week in brief

Year 10 pupils will embark on their two-week work experience placements today. Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh pupils meet at 3.45pm on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the Art Project at the Plaza Cinema continues, there are Y12 pupils visiting Manchester as part of a History trip and the Y11 Drama Night takes place. On Thursday, Y11 and Y13 pupils will have their photographs taken, the International Maths Seminar continues, and the Y9 Consultation Evening takes place. On Friday, the PTA Fashion Show starts at 7pm at Lower Site (For details, see p4).

Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me – and by that time there was no one left to speak up.'

Before departing for our journey home, we reflected on the statement by Edmund Burke that 'all it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing'.

After spending a night on the coach, we returned to Crosby at around 2.30pm on Saturday, exhausted but elated.

The behaviour of our students has been exemplary throughout.

They have been a real credit to themselves, their parents, the College and Merseyside and have made the week away a real pleasure for the staff involved. The trip has definitely been a life changing experience.

I am sure all the students would like to join me in thanking the following staff who gave up so much of their time to make this visit possible: Mrs Fagan, Mrs Steele, Mrs Callaghan, Miss Niescier, Mr Gardiner, Mr Forest & Mr Robertson. Also a big thank you to our non-staff helpers Mr Garner & Mr Steele.

We also raised £108.17 for the Waterloo Partnership from donations during the trip: well done everyone.

What the pupils said

Michael Foley (12A): After having seen the difficulties those who were persecuted in the Holocaust experienced, I'll appreciate the things in my life more now.

Lillian Halewood (12S): I really enjoyed the trip because I spoke to new people and got more involved with people in our year. I'm really glad I finally got to visit Auschwitz. I've wanted to go for a long time but didn't think I'd get the chance. Although it was really upsetting I will never forget it and now appreciate what I have far more.'

Ben Sorrell (12T): This was an amazing trip. I learned so much about the Holocaust and about the cities we visited. But the trip was not just about the concentration/death camps but also about having fun. I had a great time at places like the Hard Rock Café and bowling and I met some amazing new people. The memories will stay with me forever.'

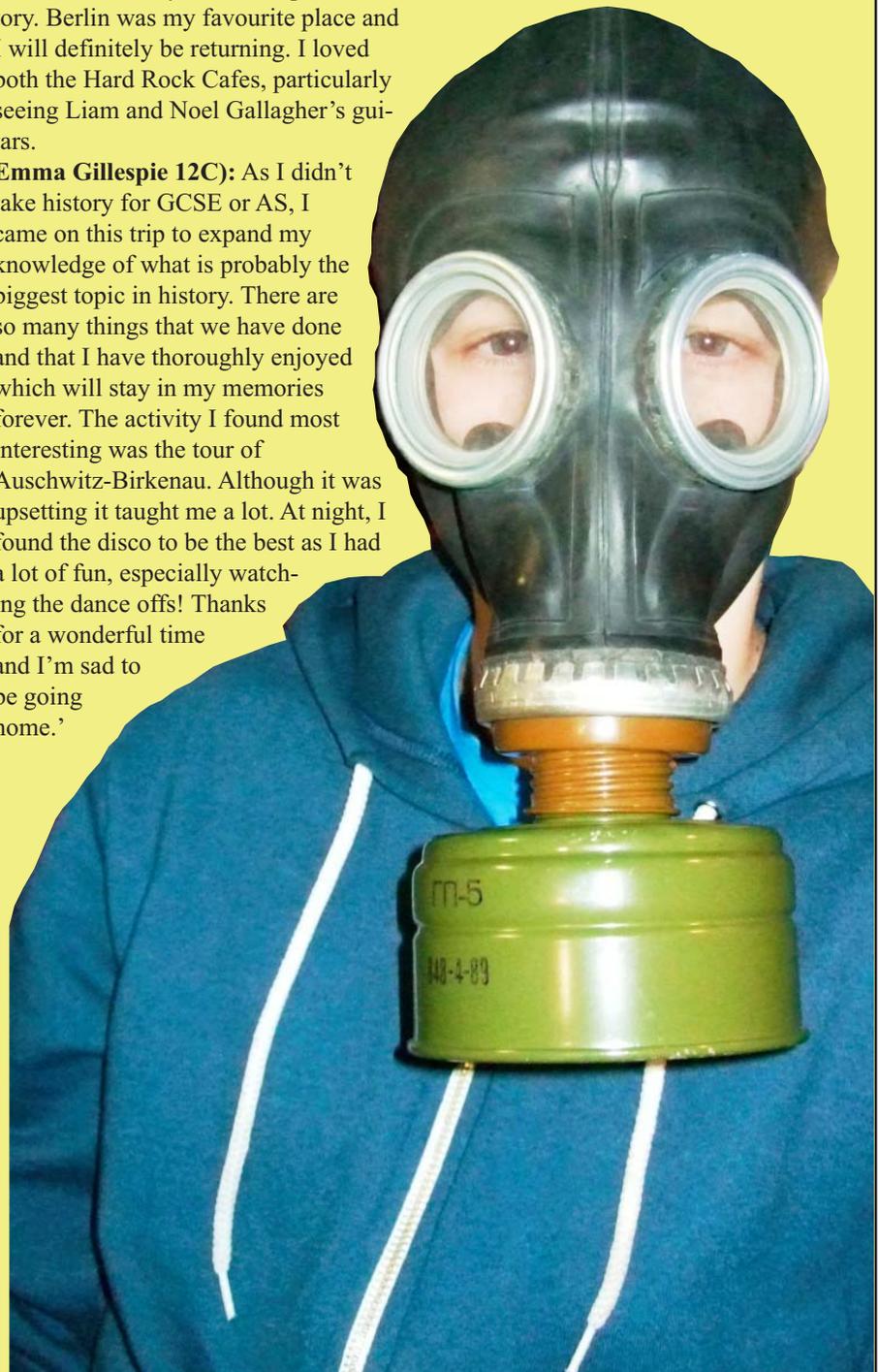
Alice Callaghan (12S): I really enjoyed this trip since I was able to learn new information about cultures and religions. I have also learnt about the Holocaust and the people behind it. It has shown me that hatred and ignorance can become very dangerous and how propaganda can be used for mass murder. I have also enjoyed the evening activities which allowed me to talk to new people.

Tom Clarke (12S): I enjoyed the tour of Prague because this city is like no other city I have seen. Prague's history and buildings are fascinating and the free time in the square was great.

Lara Hughes (12R): I came on the trip because I love seeing beautiful cities that I haven't seen before and Prague was one of the best. I now like the fact that I can say I've been to Auschwitz-

Birkenau. It really felt like a part of history. Berlin was my favourite place and I will definitely be returning. I loved both the Hard Rock Cafes, particularly seeing Liam and Noel Gallagher's guitars.

Emma Gillespie (12C): As I didn't take history for GCSE or AS, I came on this trip to expand my knowledge of what is probably the biggest topic in history. There are so many things that we have done and that I have thoroughly enjoyed which will stay in my memories forever. The activity I found most interesting was the tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Although it was upsetting it taught me a lot. At night, I found the disco to be the best as I had a lot of fun, especially watching the dance offs! Thanks for a wonderful time and I'm sad to be going home.'



Schools unite on Saturday

Very early on Saturday morning, while many people were having a lie-in, Year 7 pupils from Sacred Heart were joined by Year 6 students from Ursuline, Great Crosby and St Edmund's and St Thomas' for the Gifted and Talented Saturday Challenge, writes Miss Niescier.

Among the exciting subjects on offer were: Maths, Spanish and Drama

The groups spent the first part of the morning working hard in their allocated groups until they had a well-deserved break.

It was obvious that the pupils were enjoying the sessions as they were asking to go back to their classrooms even before the break had ended.

The rest of the morning was spent back in their classrooms using the knowledge they acquired in a number of ways; 'The Apprentice' style challenge of clothes design and manufacture in Maths, Faustus in Drama and new language skills in Spanish.

All the pupils enjoyed the morning which seemed to end very quickly and the teachers commented on how well-behaved the pupils were and how impressive the work



I'm stuck: Mr Pye helps pupils with a sticky situation during Saturday's Gifted & Talented workshop

they produced was.

I would like to thank Miss Lynch, Mr Pye and Mrs Weekes for all their hard work

and for giving up their Saturday morning to make this 'Challenge' event a success for their pupils!

Pupils pop in on Pip



Phillip (Pip) Johnson had a nice surprise recently as he was visited at Alder Hey by four of his College mates. Jonathan Harrison, Daniel Kendrick, Terry Murray and Sean Harbourne popped in on Phillip just days after the Y8 pupil had an operation on his ankle. The boys said: "We went to visit Pip at Alder Hey Hospital a few days after his

operation. Form Tutors had collected contributions from Year 8 pupils and we took Pip lots of presents. It was really good to see him smiling. Pip is going to be off school for a long time to recover from his operation. Everyone in school has been thinking and praying for Pip, so it was nice to tell him that everyone was thinking about him."

Prom Fair

Sacred Heart Lower School
 Tickets £2 (Pupils must be accompanied by an adult)

**Friday
4th
March**
 Doors open @ 6:30pm
 Catwalk show @ 7:30pm

Refreshments & Raffle
 Various stalls including
 Hair and Beauty
 Photography
 Jewellery
 Shoes & Handbags

Tickets available from Mrs Doherty or call 0151 931 2971

orders for so many

My favorite?