

# Heartbeat



Monday, March 3

Issue 22

## Poignant Prague trip leaves lasting memories



At 6am on 14th February, 41 students and six staff set off on our annual quest to learn more about the history of the mid 20th Century, *writes Head of History, Mrs Garner*. The aims of the trip were to 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. Having arrived in Prague at 10.30am the next day, we took a tram to Prague Castle in the afternoon 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 a tram back to the hotel from Wenceslas Square for some much needed rest before a slap up 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 two 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.

After lunch in the border town of Litoměřice, 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 went to a bowling centre to let off some steam after an emotionally challenging day.

The next day, we travelled to Poland, arriving at our hotel in Krakow at 6pm. After dinner in a local restaurant, we went for a walk around the old town square before re-

turning to the hotel for an evening in the games room.

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.

The cold weather brought home to many of us how difficult it would have been for prisoners to survive in only pyjamas and clogs. We finished our tour by holding a ceremony of remembrance at the Birkenau memorial. We had all been given a photograph of a victim and some personal information about this person to focus on during our

tour.

Mrs Reid had asked us to imagine they were walking at our side. We focused on our holocaust victims during our ceremony. We laid six candles in the shape of a cross as well as a red rose. Lucy Boardman (12H) and Josh Laidlaw (10S) read prayers written by victims and survivors of Nazi persecution & 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 watched Schindler's List whilst embarking on our journey to Wrocław, arriving at our hotel in the late afternoon.

After dinner in the hotel, we held a disco in the function suite with almost everyone on the dance floor (teachers included).

The next day we travelled to Germany, arriving in Berlin mid-afternoon and, after checking in to our city centre hotel, we had some free time for shopping. We then visited 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.

### **Respectful**

We also stopped off at the Holocaust Memorial where, as always, our students were extremely respectful.

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 followed by free time in the hotel's games room.

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 1930s, followed by prisoners from more than 40 countries during WW2.

One such prisoner was Pastor Martin



Niemoller, who made the following statement which we had listened to during our ceremony at Auschwitz.

***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.***

***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 Protes-***

***tant.***

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

After spending a night on the coach, we returned to Crosby on Saturday afternoon, exhausted but elated.

The behaviour of our students was exemplary throughout. They have been a real credit to themselves, their parents and the College, and have made the week away a real pleasure for the staff involved.

The trip has definitely been a life changing experience for many as the comments from the students on p3 indicate.



# Students reflect on trip

The trip to Prague was really good and has changed my life forever. As well as seeing some beautiful places, we have also experienced some emotional places, such as concentration camps. The camps change you as you look into the eyes of the victims on photographs of prisoners who suffered there many years ago.

*Elle Maguire (10T)*

This trip gave us the chance to visit and experience beautiful cities but also the chance to commemorate the lives lost in concentration camps.

*Lizzy English (10C)  
Charlotte Barrett (10C)*

The trip was a moving experience. We were given the opportunity to explore three very different cities. We also had the opportunity to see how barbaric the living conditions were in the camps and how harshly the Jews, and other minorities, were treated by the Nazis.

*Holly Steven (10A)  
Sarah Morrison (10S)*

The trip was very emotional and seeing the treatment of holocaust victims was very moving.

*Tom Ward (10C)*

Coming on this trip has really put into perspective the pain and suffering people had to go through during the holocaust. It also made me realise just how many people died and the wider effect this had. As well as the camps, we also got to see some great cities.

*Lucy Walters (10H)*

This trip has been very moving and has changed my life. It has made me realise we should be grateful for what we have, as millions of people suffered without anything at all.

*Justine Branford (10D)*

The trip this time round has been so different to the first time we came. We have understood so much more and feel more emotional about what we have seen. We are so appreciative of the lives we have and are thankful that we have the means to come on the trip again.

*Lucy Boardman (12H)  
Emma Johnstone (12H)  
Catherine Harrison (12S)  
Lara Mulcahy (12S)*

Besides the upsetting sites and memories from the camps, I have also seen some of the most beautiful villages, towns and cities I've ever seen. With the culture and the architecture, there was never a dull moment.

*Molly McNicholas (12T)*

My second time on the trip was a lot more insightful, as I was able to understand more and I knew what to expect. I highly recommend this trip, whether you are studying History or not.

*Joe Chatterton (12A)*

Second time was even better than the first. Really interesting and glad I came back.

*John Billingsley (12C)*

This trip was extremely memorable

for me, as I was able to understand more of what was said and realise how privileged I am to be living in freedom. I met some fantastic people and made some great new friends.

*George Knifton (13D)*

This was my first time on the Prague trip. Having not studied History since Year 9, it helped me to understand more deeply what happened during WW2. This trip was a great experience and it made me realise how lucky we all are.

*Alice Cribb (12E)*

The trip was truly eye-opening and moving, creating memories which will stay with us forever. By visiting the exhibitions and memorial sites, the Final Solution was put into perspective. We learnt many new facts which were both interesting and upsetting. As well as the trip being filled with sad moments, we will also take away happy memories. It will help us to remember that History cannot be allowed to repeat itself.

*Faye Brennan (12T)  
Lizzie McKay (12E)*

## News in brief

Year 10 begin their two week work experience placements today.

The three day IT trip to Euro Disney leaves today and the Book Fair at Lower Site continues today and tomorrow. There is the Rich Man Poor Man lunch on Wednesday and Silver Surfers meet in G8 at 3.30pm on Thursday.

# Choir's Cathedral coup



Congratulations to the College's Chamber Choir, who recently had the immense honour of providing the music at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral for their daily service of Evening Prayer.

At the invitation of Richard Lea, the Cathedral organist, some of our finest vocal musicians acted as the Cathedral Choir for the day, rehearsing in the Song Room in the afternoon, followed by a rehearsal with Richard, ahead of the service at 5.45pm.

The choristers led the congregation in singing the psalms and hymns, and gave visitors the opportunity to reflect whilst they sang three anthems.

Head of Music, Mr Foy, said: "Richard, David Lee, a tenor in the Cathedral Choir, and the priest who took the service, were all very complimentary and praised our students, not only for their magnificent singing but for their attitude and empathy as a choir singing for a service rather than a concert.

"The students should feel very proud of themselves. England has an enviable reputation for choral music in our cathedrals and to be invited to sing at the Metropolitan Cathedral shows the very high standards our Chamber Choir have achieved.

"The Cathedral is a very demanding and unforgiving space to perform in, with the music reverberating for some eight seconds. However, the students met the challenge and acted as fantastic ambassadors for both the College and Crosby.

"The future looks rosy too, with the Choir in great demand. They have already accepted invitations to perform at Lichfield, Gloucester and Southwark Cathedrals."

**STUART FLETCHER**

**AS**

**OLLY MURS**



**FRIDAY 14TH March 2014**  
**at 7:30pm**

**Sacred Heart Catholic College Lower Site**

**Tickets £8 includes your first drink!**

**Disco.**

**Tickets available from the College on**

**0151 931 2971**

**Cheap bar bring your own buffet.**