

Heartbeat



Monday, March 4



Issue 22

History trip was a real 'eye-opener' for students



Sixty four students and nine staff set off on a quest to learn more about the history of the mid 20th century last month, *writes Head of History, Mrs Garner.*

Whilst there, they also paid their respects to the millions who lost their lives to persecution, as well as to learn about the cultures of Central and Eastern Europe.

On our first afternoon, we took a tram into the centre of Prague and visited the museum for the Czech resistance fighters who assassinated Reinhard Heydrich in 1942.

We then explored the sculptures and architectural features of this fascinating city on a riverside walk.

After some free time for shopping in the Old Town Square, 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, after our coach

dropped us at Prague Castle, we went on a walking tour which took us to the statue of Churchill, the Lennon Wall and across the Charles Bridge into Josefov.

This was the Jewish quarter of Prague which was preserved by the Nazis to be a museum to an extinct race.

We then visited The Pinkas Synagogue, which was very thought-provoking, as it has the names of all the Czech Jews who were murdered on its walls (more than 77,000), which helped us all appreciate the scale of the atrocity.

Camp

After lunch in the border town of Litoměřice, we visited the concentration camp of Terezin. This 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 had a meal in a traditional Czech restaurant and then went to a bowling alley to let off some steam after an emotionally challenging day.

The next day, we travelled to Poland and arrived at our hotel in Krakow at about 5pm.

After dinner in a local restaurant, we returned to the hotel for some free time 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.

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Views in brief

The trip had a profound effect on me and was a stark eye-opener to how we should all try to combat the very real issue of discrimination and injustice. It truly emphasised how lucky we are to live in a free society with basic human rights. It has highlighted the problems that a lack of actions can have. Thank you for this trip, it has been incredible and unforgettable.

Adam Bradley (11D)

This trip has been the most profoundly eye-opening experience of my life. It has, without doubt, changed my perspective on life and shaped me as a person. On this trip, I have witnessed the tragedy of so many lives cut short. I have been touched by their legacy that will live forever. My heart burst with love for Prague, broke for the atrocity in Poland and I left a piece of it in Berlin.

Meghan Farrington (11S)

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We also visited the punishment cells where Maximilian Kolbe, amongst many others, lost his life. The size of the purpose-built death factory at Birkenau was a shock to many of our group. We finished our tour by holding a ceremony of remembrance at the Birkenau Memorial.

We had all been given a photograph of a victim or survivor of the Holocaust and some personal information about this person to focus on during our tour. Mrs Callaghan had asked us to think carefully about the suffering of that individual. We focused on our holocaust victims during our ceremony and lit a candle afterwards. There were a number of prayers and readings written by victims and survivors of Nazi persecution. Most poignant was that written by Pastor Martin Niemoller, whose cell Year 11 would later visit in Sachsenhausen, and then we said the Eternal Rest.

Reflect

We then had some quiet time to reflect on how what we had seen could change our daily lives, before embarking on our journey to Wroclaw.

After eating at the hotel, we had a disco in the function suite and all had a brilliant time. The next day, we travelled to Germany, stopping off at McDonald's for lunch. We arrived in Berlin mid-afternoon and, after checking in to our hotel early, we had some much needed shopping therapy before heading out for tea.

After dinner, to symbolise our own cherished freedom, we walked through the Brandenburg Gate, which had formerly been situated in 'no man's land' at the time of the Berlin Wall.

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SACRED HEART DOES THE LIVERPOOL HALF MARATHON SUNDAY 10TH MARCH



Staff and pupils will be running in support of LET'S DO THIS FOR ISABEL

To sponsor those running, or if you would like to join the team, please contact either school office.

Come and join us on the day to offer your support!



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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 Unter Den Linden and spending a fortune in the famous chocolate shop.

Afterwards, we took time to visit the memorial to those who voted against Hitler's suspension of democracy in 1933, most of whom died in concentration camps.

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

Political

After free time for shopping in Berlin city centre, 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 WWII.

One such prisoner was Pastor Martin Niemoller, who made a statement which we had read out at Birkenau (see p4)

We then visited a 1960s diner for our last meal out together in Berlin.

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

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**Sacred Heart Catholic College
presents**

JAK DEXTER



**Friday 22nd March
7.30 pm
Lower Site Hall**

Tickets £5.00

**All proceeds will go towards
Let's Do This for Isabel**



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Some bartering was done to buy hats and other memorabilia from the street sellers, before we got the train back to our hotel to check out and then went to Zoo Centre for lunch and free time.

In the afternoon, 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.

After spending a night on the coach, we returned to Crosby just after 1pm on Saturday, exhausted but elated.

The behaviour of our students has been exemplary throughout. They have been a credit to themselves, their parents, the school and Merseyside. The trip has definitely been a life changing experience for many as the comments from the students on p3 indicate.

Martin Niemoller

'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 Protestant.

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

News in brief

Year 9 Options Evening takes place from 6pm tonight.

GCSE Music Performance Examinations conclude tomorrow.

Art Examinations will start this week and Ash Wednesday services will also take place this week.

