

Govan High School

Holocaust Education Study

www.ghs100.ork.uk



Auschwitz

In October this year, a group of S5 pupils went on a once in a lifetime trip to Krakow to visit Auschwitz. We also visited Berlin. After two years of bake sales, jewellery sales, car washes and race nights, all the fundraising and help of supporters finally paid off.

The idea of this trip came around when The Anne Frank exhibition came to our school and we were trained to be tour guides by Paula Fraser who was the creator of the exhibition. We showed and told the horrendous story of Anne Frank to groups of people of all different ages. This was followed by studying pieces on the holocaust and novels with the theme of discrimination in our English and RE classes. After that we felt the only thing we could then do was go and see the horrific camp for ourselves and so the hard work began. Even after studying the holocaust and being in the camp it is nearly impossible to imagine the pain and heart-breaking times these people went through.



Wieliczka Salt Mine



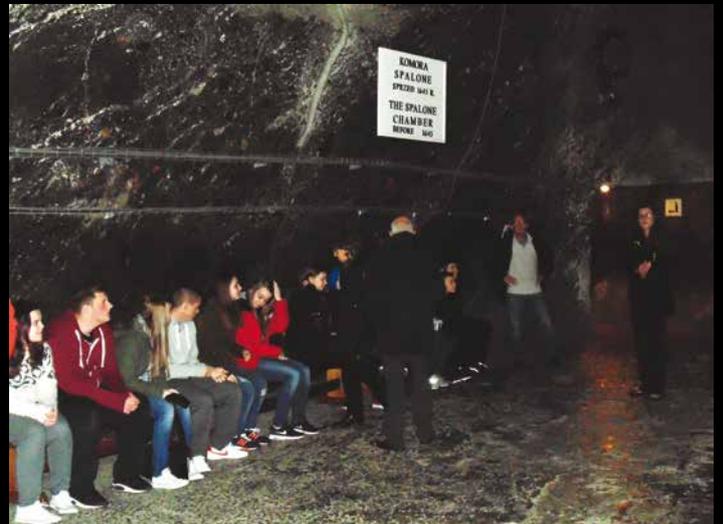
Going down the 876 stairs into the Wieliczka Salt Mine



The underground cathedral was incredibly beautiful – but during the war Jewish prisoners were worked to death in the salt mines.

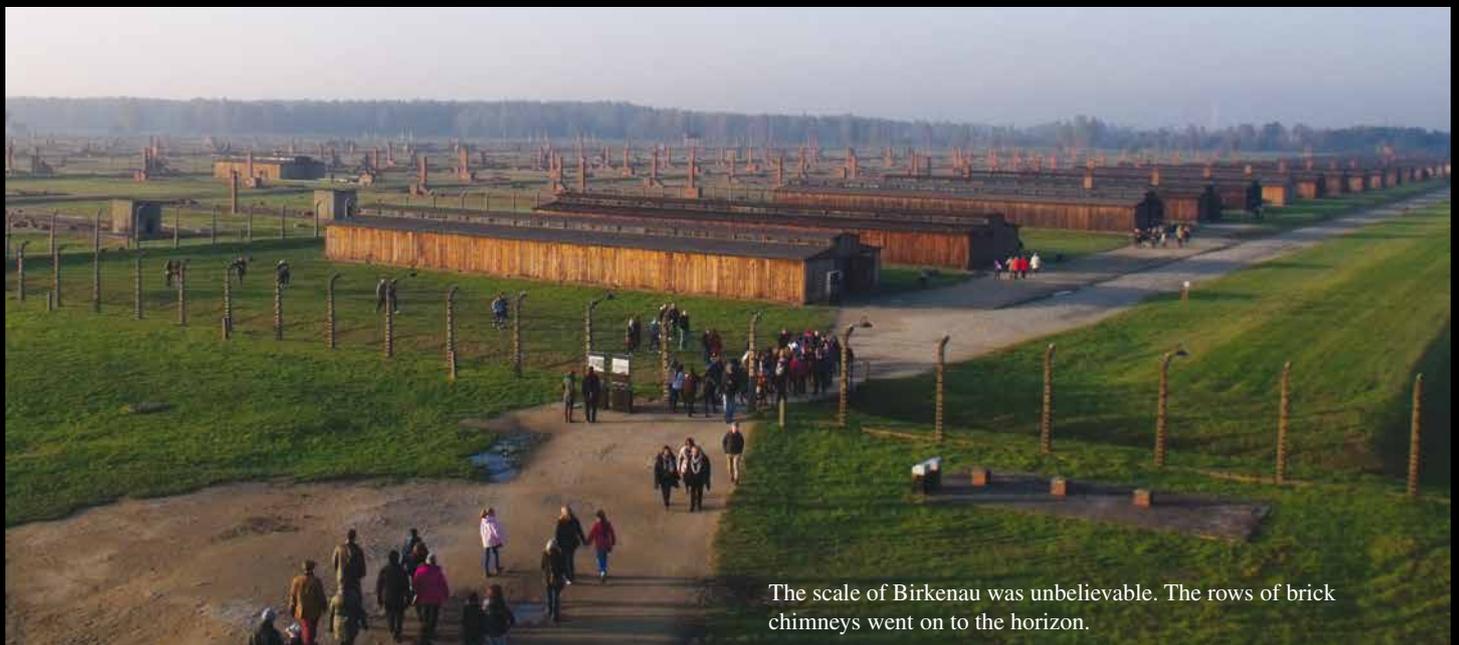


Raising the salt



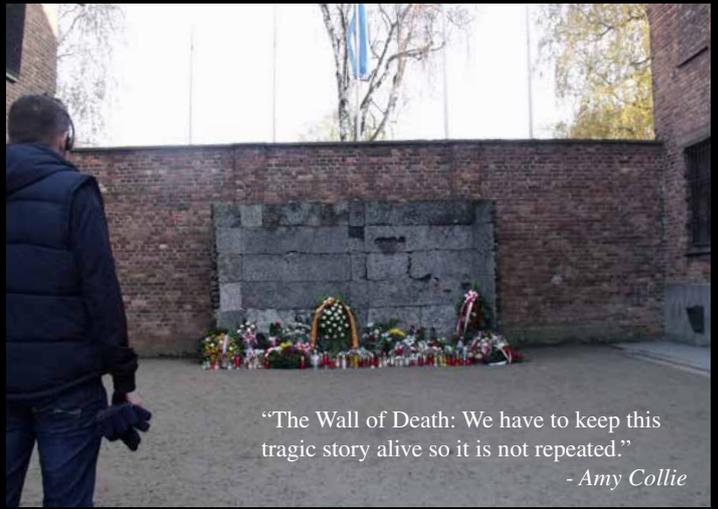
The Polish guide tells the story of the salt mines

Birkenau Death Camp



The scale of Birkenau was unbelievable. The rows of brick chimneys went on to the horizon.

Auschwitz



“The Wall of Death: We have to keep this tragic story alive so it is not repeated.”

- Amy Collie

“The trip to Poland and Germany was very educational but also very emotional. Especially those moments when we saw just how awful the Nazis made life for the prisoners – it was hell on earth.”

- Scott Young



«This is where the selections took place. If you were not strong enough to work (like children, for example) you were marched straight to the gas chambers.

“I felt the trip to Poland was both educational and emotional. When seeing Auschwitz I was tormented by the stories told by the Guide.”

- Alan Porteous



Millions of people were transported from all over Nazi occupied Europe in cattle trucks like this. For most it was a one way journey.



A small memorial at the end of the line



Going to the “showers” – in reality the gas chambers using Zyklon B gas.



This is the first gas chamber at Auschwitz.



Drawings of prisoners marching out to work in the morning and returning half dead at night.



Berlin

From Krakow we also made the journey to Berlin to see where it all began. We visited the Topography of Terror Exhibition which tells the story of Hitler in pictures and words. The exhibition tells the story of Nazi cruelty to millions of innocents in the lead-up to and during WWII.

Walking through Berlin, we saw the remains of the Berlin Wall that once split the city in two and split family and friends apart. We visited Checkpoint Charlie which was the crossing point between East and West Berlin. The wall was the true legacy of the Nazis whose abuse of power ultimately split Europe in two.

This trip was once in a lifetime and we are so lucky we had the chance to do the two parts of Krakow and Berlin. We think everyone should see this at least once in their life so that something as horrible

as the Nazi genocide never happens again. As a quote says in camp Auschwitz “The one who does not remember history is bound to live through it again”. We have to keep this tragic story alive so it is not repeated. We are all very grateful for this opportunity.

Being so young, I think I may go back to Auschwitz in the future when I have my own children to see it from an adult’s perspective. I am also very grateful to all helpers, donators and also to My English teacher and Religious studies teacher for making this experience happen. Our tour guide called it the ‘factory of death’ and to anyone who went through this “factory” may their soul rest in peace.

- by Amy Collie



We passed one of the few remaining stretches of The Berlin Wall on Prince Albert Strasse as we were walking to The Topography of Terror museum.



The Topography of Terror tells the story of the rise and fall of Hitler and the Nazi Party.



One of the first pictures you see in The Topography of Terror museum – the Nazi Leadership on the eve of Hitler becoming Chancellor of Germany. Even this early they were planning the Holocaust.



“Checkpoint Charlie.”