

Poland Trip

This is our outward journey from London Stansted to Krakow Poland. Full of anticipation and excitement at visiting a new country.

Our hotel was very nice and the staff were extremely helpful and friendly. The rooms were comfortable and spacious. The cleanliness of the hotel was reflected in the city itself as we discovered when we went to explore Krakow and get a meal.

We ended up at an American Burger Bar – the burgers although described as an American Burgers definitely had a Polish twist with the addition of red cabbage, peppers and some delicious sauces and relishes.



We then burnt off the calories as we walked round the outside of a stadium, a park and a shopping mall. This meant that we had completed a vast number of steps and headed back for a rest at hotel. We stayed in the vicinity of the hotel for the evening as we had a 6.30am breakfast planned and we were picked up at 6.45am.

The students were throughout the visit at the sites exceptionally well behaved, respectful, and were asking thoughtful questions.

The tour started at Auschwitz Museum with a walk through a concrete construction that said names of the dead as we walked by. The students saw plaques to individuals and countries that had donated to the Museum.



We then moved on to see various exhibits and the tour guide gave details about on the way. This included amongst other things, the ashes of remains found at Birkenau, items that had belonged the inmates of the camp (including spectacles, shoes, pans, suitcases and hair).

We also visited the prison and witnessed the conditions there. The final visit at Auschwitz was to the surviving gas chamber – at which the students were mindful and quiet.



On arrival at Birkenau we saw the entrance of the railway that is so well known. Our guide took us to the cattle cart that transported the prisoners to the camp. The students listened intently as the guide described the conditions.

We walked on to a monument to the dead and then looked at the gas chambers – or rather the remains of the gas chambers that were destroyed just prior to the Allies liberating the camp. The next part of the tour took us to the ‘women’s quarters’ where we witnessed the living conditions of the people kept there – there were three tier beds with the bottom tier being the floor. This visit left a lasting impression on the students and they made thoughtful comments and this led nicely into discussions about respect and tolerance.

By the end of the visit the students had gained so much from the whole experience not only in relation to the purpose of the visit but in their social interactions with each other.

