

## The Adventures of The Wadebridge Year 10 Students.

### Mission 1: From Berlin with Love

As the Balmy Brits that are the Year 10 History pupils, we visited the wonderful and beautiful City of Berlin to learn more about the German Depth study that we are studying at the moment. Our journey began in the treacherous territory of the Wadebridge school bus bay - having completed the somewhat traumatic task of getting sixty-four Year 10s on a bus, we were off!

So after a long day and an even longer night we had arrived in Germany. After a disgusting coffee and the terrible outrage in response to having to pay to relieve ourselves, you can imagine our discomfort when we were stopped by the Zoll (German police) and even more so when Mr Streete made everyone panic about the mature content on Ewan's ipad! The Zoll kept the journey at a stand-still for around two hours, by which time the students were all very tired.

Despite the journey's difficulties, everyone was raring to go when we arrived at the first museum, the Story of Berlin. The museum was incredibly interesting, as it tracked the history of the cultured city, through 800 years, up to the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was an excellent place to begin our trip, as it gave us a fantastic insight into the eras that we were yet to study. Then we headed downstairs, to the Cold War bunker, a very exciting prospect. This was a very eerie place, built to house 3,500 people during a nuclear threat.



beds were arranged from one end to end; it was a scary thought to imagine so many people in such a confined space, with so few supplies and such little

privacy. After a long day a good meal, shower and a good night's rest were greatly appreciated.

The next morning, after one handsome individual had his first experience on the wrong end of some hair straighteners, we headed out into the city, walking to the Topography of Terror. This was built on the foundations of the demolished Gestapo headquarters. The Gestapo headquarters were in a hotel and the cellars that were used for torture chambers were uncovered. We walked along the longest part of the Berlin wall still standing, which was a surreal experience due to the graffiti and the monumental implications of where we were, the wall having only been taken down 30 years ago. The Topography of Terror was a photo exhibition focusing on the perpetrators. We really enjoyed the museum and the different way it was presented. Checkpoint Charlie was also a fascinating place. The museum recorded escape attempts including a child being sent over the wall in a slingshot, zip-wires and hiding in a model cow! Three particular students decided they had too much money in their wallets and therefore bought soviet Russian hats at a more than extreme price. Well done Toby Eddison, Max Eddy and Morgan Centini!

Later that day, we visited the Reichstag building and went to the top, the sight of the fire that enabled Hitler to take emergency power and consolidate his control. The view was absolutely spectacular and the architecture was amazing.

The next day, we headed apprehensively to Sachsenhausen, a labour camp just outside the city. The sheer expanse of space was a huge surprise to everyone. We were all really affected by the experience and none of us will ever forget the sudden realism of being where we were. It's all very well being taught about the atrocities in a classroom but being there and standing where countless people died, where their corpses were stored, was something we were not prepared for but incredibly glad we had the opportunity to witness.

On a slightly lighter note, we travelled to the Berlin Olympic stadium afterwards where the Olympics had been held in 1936, when Jesse Owens won triple gold. The stadium was a sight to see, with a grand pitch, featuring a running track and such. We stood where Jesse Owens started his long jump and sat where Ronaldo may have sat! After a quick souvenir shop and dinner, we headed back to the hotel, where we spent some time reflecting on the experiences we'd had and the effect they had had on us and our peers.

The next morning we headed out for a walk and some more shopping, before spending another 28ish hours on a coach. Everyone was incredibly reluctant to leave, having really enjoyed our time in Berlin and most people vowed to return later in life. The journey home was relatively uneventful, aside from a vomiting incident 1 hour away from Wadebridge! (Could you not have held it in Ewan?)

All in all, this trip was a fantastic experience. Everyone on it had a brilliant time. We were amazed by how much everything affected us and how much we learnt. All the students would like to thank all the members of staff that accompanied us and organised this trip. Special thanks to Mrs Lyle for all the work she put in and to Mr Lyle, who volunteered! I know that all of the students will always remember the experiences we shared in Berlin!

By Harry Macfarlane and Morwenna Smart