



CLASSROOM BUZZ

A GIBRALTAR COLLEGE NEWSLETTER WRITTEN BY STUDENTS

LESSONS LEARNED BY KATIE PHILBIN



About four years ago I heard about a trip, an experience, an opportunity. A group of students from schools all around Gibraltar would be chosen to go to Poland to learn about and see some of what remains of the holocaust; Auschwitz.

When I first told people about my want, need and desperation to go on this trip I was met with disbelief. People questioned my motives and even asked if it was appropriate for me to attend. People frowned at me and laughed. Why? Because I am German. While my ancestry isn't as simple as it seems, I understand their reaction. At every school I have been to, at least once I have been asked if I support Hitler.

World War Two has been lingering around me for years; ever since my mother explained to me in the car one afternoon, why my siblings and I might want to hold

back our German pride. "There was a man named Hitler," she started. "He did some very, very bad things a long time ago, before I was born." It was not long after when the questions started, and my siblings and I had to begin defending ourselves purely because of where one parent was born. It didn't matter that we were on a British army barrack, or that I was nine, or that I wasn't even born in the same century as the war. I was German, so I had to be 'one of them.'

I tried many things to reduce the amount of questions I got. I held back, maybe only replied with an eyeroll, I argued, deflected, got angry and laughed it off. Nothing seemed to work. At one point I just stared at the person until they felt awkward and moved on or walked away. What this regular questioning did was make me create questions myself. Soon enough I had the best armour against these questions; education.

Naturally, when I heard about the trip, I was apprehensive myself. I did wonder if it was appropriate for me to go. It didn't take long before I decided, if anything, it would be more appropriate for me to attend. So, I signed up, and before I knew it, I was on a plane.

I didn't know what to expect really. No documentary, book or seminar could prepare me. We went to the Ghetto remains first, walking the roads the Jews would have, we listened to war poems, discussed deep questions and learned about the history. We were with a survivor, Mala. We heard her story, her family's story. The loss and tension thick and palpable in the air. We all felt so much hearing her story, only a fraction of what she must have felt. Then, it was time to visit the camps.

It was strange to say the least; we had headphones on to listen to our guide which really immersed me. I listened to the guide but I could clearly hear the crunch of the gravel beneath my feet; it was like I was in two worlds. I was hearing the same crunch the prisoners would have as they marched where I walked, and I heard what they went through at the same time. It was dizzying.

I sat alone on the way back to Gibraltar, I looked out of the window and thought. There was so much to take in while I was there. So much to contemplate. I realised there was something simple I was overlooking. The whole point of the trip, the name of the charity; Learning from Auschwitz.

What had I learned? So much. I learned so much. The holocaust was horrendous. It was atrocious, disgusting and deserves every ounce of infamy it has and more. How anyone can deny it or support it now baffles and disgusts me; and I will fight to remedy this.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:
 "Don't judge a book by it's movie"
 Mrs Cant - Head of Languages

BOOK OF THE MONTH

'Once' by Morris Gleitzman is the story of a young Jewish boy who is determined to escape the orphanage he lives in to save his Jewish parents from the Nazis in the occupied Poland of the Second World War.



Book available to be borrowed from the Resource Centre.

OUR LEVEL 2 STUDENTS VISITED THE MUSEUM AS PART OF THEIR CITIZENSHIP COURSE



STAFF SHOUT OUT OF THE MONTH!
 Mrs. Bosano, Mr. Cumbo & Mr. Hayward
 FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN ORGANISING THIS YEAR'S UPCOMING CHARITY FUN DAY

CHARITY FUN DAY 2019 SCHEDULE

- 9.00-9.15: Registration in Tutorial classes
- 9.15-9.45: Setup of stalls and preparation for St Mary's workshops
- 9.45- 11.45: Opening of stalls & start St Mary's workshops
- 11.45-12.00: Clear up of main hall and workshops
- 12.00-12.30: Young Enterprise showcase
- 12.30- 12.45: delivery and distribution of lunch
- 12.45-1.45: Lunch
- 1.45-2.45: Treasure hunt
- 2.45-3.30: Treasure hunt results, prize giving and raffle.

Student Of The Month

SARAH PONS

She came to Gibraltar and managed to learn English in one year so that she could join class this year. In class she is attentive and always hands in work in time.

Whats on this month...

CHRISTMAS CONVENT FAIR:

Thur 28th Nov 2019

COLLEGE FUN DAY:

Tue 10th Dec 2019

L3 TRAVEL & TOURISM TRIPS TO LONDON:

2nd – 6th Dec 2019 and 9th – 13th Dec 2019

END OF TERM (NO COLLEGE):

Fri 20th Dec 2019

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:

Christmas Eve - Tue 24th Dec
 Christmas Day - Wed 25th Dec
 Boxing Day – Thur 26th Dec
 New Year's Eve – Tue 31st Dec
 New Year's Day – Wed 1st Jan 2020!

TRAFFIC FREE TUESDAY:

Tue 17th Dec 2019
 --Walk, Cycle or Bus--