



Backwell School

An Ofsted Outstanding School
A National Teaching School

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Dear Parent/Carer

Year 13 History Trip to Auschwitz

As in previous years, we have chosen to take part in the *Lessons from Auschwitz Project*, run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. This involves a one-day study trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Auschwitz-Birkenau was the principal and most notorious of the concentration and extermination camps established by Nazi Germany to implement its Final Solution policy, the aim of which was the mass murder of the Jewish people in Europe. More than just a visit to Poland, the course is a journey of learning and exploration – about the history of the Holocaust and the world we live in. Our school is eligible to send two students on the *Lessons from Auschwitz Project* (LFA) course.

The course is comprised of **four parts**, all of which are compulsory. Before an application is made, students must check that they can attend all sessions:

- **Orientation Seminar – Sunday, 25 February, 1.00pm- 5.00pm, Exeter (venue to be confirmed):**
A half-day seminar where participants discuss pre-war Jewish life, hear first-hand testimony from a Holocaust survivor and discuss the unique issues of preparing for a Holocaust-related site visit. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet their group and the trained LFA educator.
- **One-day visit to Poland – Tuesday, 27 February, Exeter Airport:**
Participants tour authentic sites and museum exhibits with both a local guide and a trained LFA educator, who leads group discussions.
- **Follow-up seminar – Monday, 5 March, 3.00 to 6.30 pm, Exeter (venue to be confirmed):**
A half-day seminar for participants to reflect on the visit, explore the contemporary relevance of the lessons of the Holocaust and devise practical ideas for passing on these lessons to their school and local community.
- **Next Steps:**
Participants become 'Ambassadors' for the LFA by completing a project of their choosing aimed at disseminating in their schools and local communities the lessons they have learned.

Students will be required to make their own way to the seminars and Exeter Airport.

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Once applications have been accepted, we will require a contribution of £29 per student towards the cost of taking part in the course; the History department will pay the balance.

In addition, the costs of all travel will need to be covered by parents/carers. If your son/daughter is accepted and you feel that the cost of travel may present a problem, then please contact me immediately and I can apply to the Trust for a travel subsidy.

All payments should be made via www.parentpay.com.

We believe that this will be an excellent chance for students to develop their knowledge of the Holocaust, as well as providing fantastic opportunities for students to work with the Trust in furthering Holocaust Education in our community.

To apply, students should write a **500-word application**, which should convey why they feel they should take part in the programme, to be submitted no later than **Wednesday, 17 January**.

As a school, we have been very impressed by the positive impact the course can have, not only for the students who participate, but also within our wider school community. We look forward to receiving students' applications.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

N Burns
Head of History