



Friday 24th January 2025

# HEADLINES

St Mary's Catholic School



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Wednesday 29th January**  
Year 9 Options Evening  
7pm - 8.30pm

**Thursday 30th January**  
*Matilda Jr* evening performance  
7pm

**Friday 31st January**  
*Matilda Jr* evening performance  
7pm

**Monday 3rd - Friday 1th  
February**  
Y11 & Y13 GCSE mock exams

**Thursday 6th February**  
Year 9 Parents' Evening,  
4.30pm - 7.30pm



Dear Parents

There is a great buzz and excitement around the school as we prepare for our school musical *Matilda Jr*. The acting cast, musicians, dancers and crew are very busy with their packed rehearsal schedule ready for their performances next Thursday and Friday evening, and in particular the excitement about performing to the Y4 and Y5 students from our neighbours St Joseph's on Thursday morning. I am so proud of how hard they have worked and with the extended team of set design, stage crew, sounds and lighting etc. it promises to be a wonderful performance, tickets are still available to purchase, more information on how to purchase is on page 2!

Tuesday late evening we welcomed back our team of Y11 Historians after a timely, packed (and chilly) four day educational tour of Berlin. Sincere thanks to Mr Juliff, Mr Bonich, Mrs Hayden, and Mrs Anderson for their leadership in such a successful and wonderful opportunities. The student's photos and reflections on what they seen, visited and experienced are inspiring. There is a selection of photos and accounts in this edition for you to enjoy. It is timely that their visit coincides with Holocaust Memorial Day which falls on Monday 27th January. For all those persecuted and victims we pray:

Eternal God, you hold all of our days in your hands.

This week, we come before you to remember the victims of the Holocaust. We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of other genocides. May our minds be clear and attentive to their memory and our hearts be moved to bear witness to their lives.

Help us to remember and recognise the sanctity of each human life, that all people are made in Your image.

One day, we pray that genocide and hatred will be no more, and that love will triumph over evil.

In our prayers and in our actions, help us to show this love in the world today.

Amen.

I am so thankful that our students can take their learning beyond the classroom and experience the rich history and lessons learnt from such tragedy. This helps the Y11 students in their education but in their compassion and understanding of putting our core Gospel values in action.

May I wish you and your families a restful and relaxing weekend.

God Bless,

Deirdre McHugh



**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRESENTS**

**BOOK  
NOW**

ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL JR.



**Thursday 30th & Friday 31st January**

**Showtime: 7 PM**

**St Mary's Catholic School Hall**



The cast members will appear on the following days:

Thursday 30th January: Emilia, Aaron, Maggie, Leticia, Martha, Ciara, Emily, Kerys, Lyra, Tabitha, Lily.

Friday 31st January: Alice, Jamie, Sophia, Lucas, Anna, Annabel, Celeste, Grace H, Ava, Grace D, Anwen.



# BERLIN TRIP

On Tuesday 21st January, thirty-four Year 11 students along with Mr Juliff, Mr Bonich, Mrs Hayden and Mrs Anderson, returned from an unforgettable four-day study tour to Berlin.

Upon arrival in the city, they explored the East Side Gallery; the largest stretch of the Berlin Wall still standing today. The artworks on the Wall were a reminder of creativity and the human spirit in the face of oppression. This was followed by Evening Mass at St Antonius' Church. Despite the linguistic differences (clearly on show as Mr Bonich and Mr Juliff failed miserably to communicate with Father), the group was welcomed with open arms by the congregation in collective worship.



The next morning, the students had a walking tour of Berlin, taking in sights such as the Reichstag, Museum Island, the Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, and the Holocaust Memorial. The students were lucky to have engaging and informative tour guides, talking them through the history of Berlin.

Next, they visited the Museum of German Resistance that is located on the site of the execution of the German Officers who plotted to assassinate Hitler and overthrow the Nazi regime in July 1944. The students learnt the stories of those brave Germans who resisted the Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945. On Sunday evening, the students brought out their competitive sides with an enjoyable game of mini-golf.

On Monday morning, the students visited Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, just outside of the city. The camp, first opened in 1936, stands as a monument to the suffering of the victims of the Nazi regime, including Jewish people, political opponents, homosexuals, Roma and Sinti peoples, and Jehovah's Witnesses. The students were respectful, engaged and reflective whilst exploring this solemn site.

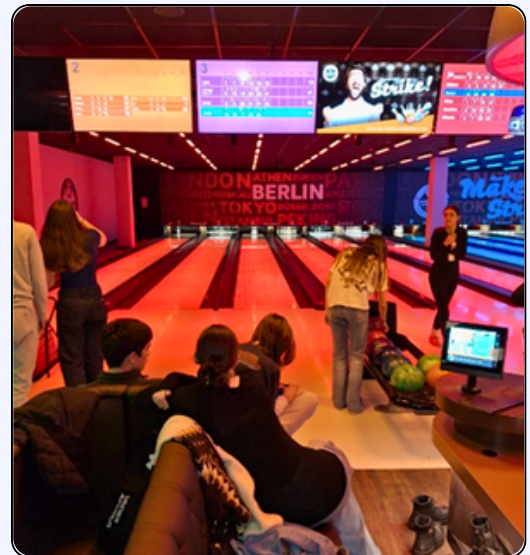




# BERLIN TRIP

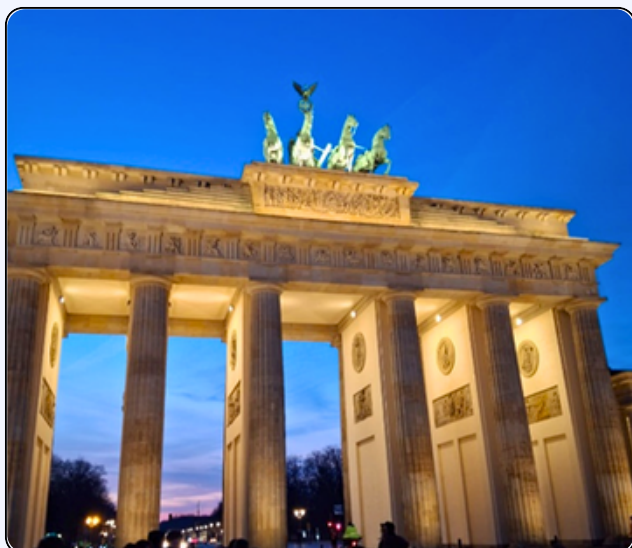
Monday afternoon saw an exciting visit to the impressive Olympic Stadium, built for the 1936 Games. More recently, the stadium was used for the Euro 2024 Final at which, as the German tour guides were a little too keen to remind us, England lost to Spain.

The students learnt about the history of the stadium, including the famous gold-medal performances by Jesse Owens in 1936, which upended the Nazis' racial theories in front of Hitler's own eyes. After this, the students had a fun evening of bowling, which led to some very close games and disputes over the scoring; and that was just the teachers!




On the last day of the trip, the students visited the Berlin Wall Memorial, which commemorates those who died whilst trying to escape from East to West Berlin between 1961 and 1989.

The students learned all about the Wall, why it was built and its impact on the divided city and its residents. Visits were also made to the Topography of Terror, a museum all about the Nazi Police State and persecution of their opponents, and the Soviet War Memorial in Treptow Park, commemorating the 80,000 Soviet soldiers who died whilst liberating the city in 1945.



The students' behaviour and engagement were exemplary throughout the trip and it was a rich experience for all.

The students can all now say with confidence and meaning: *Ich bin ein Berliner!*



## Student Hub

*How can we help?*

- › students signing in
- › students signing out
- › First Aid
- › Individual Healthcare Plans (IHCPs)  
Click [here](#) for more information relating to Medical Needs
- › students' spare & temporary medication
- › spare & second hand uniform
- › lost property
- › sanitary items

🌐 Click [here](#) to access the Student Hub webpages



## MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT HUB

If your child has lost a pair of glasses over the last term, please ask them to come to the Student Hub to see if we have them.

At St Mary's we run a scheme called the 'Penny Box'. If students need any sanitary items, they are available from the Student Hub. To save embarrassment, students can ask to "see Miss Penny".

**Information is available on the posters on the backs of toilet doors.**



*Year 13 Celebration*

Thursday 3rd July  
7pm - 11pm

BY INVITATION ONLY

**SAVE THE DATE!**