

Class Eight's trip to Birmingham Progressive Synagogue

Class eight have recently been studying Judaism in our religion lessons. As part of this we went on a school trip to Birmingham to visit Birmingham Progressive Synagogue, on Holocaust Memorial Day. We saw an exhibition of contemporary photographs commemorating the Holocaust.

When we arrived we were greeted by two women from the Synagogue, who showed us around and had conversations with us about what we would see and about the Holocaust in general.

There were two exhibitions on in the first room. One told individual stories of survivors; another one documented the events leading up to, during and after the Holocaust. The latter was made up of a series of panels showing photographs commemorating the Holocaust.

There was a picture of one particular art installation that was made of 10,000 screaming faces, each individual one made of a thick piece of iron. The idea was that when a viewer walked on it the clanking sound of the metal sounded like screaming. The ladies from the synagogue asked how we would feel to walk on those faces.

The most moving part of the visit was when we listened to a talk from Holocaust survivor Lia Lessen. This was very inspiring and class eight were very thankful to Lia and the ladies from the Synagogue for giving their time and showing us around the exhibitions.

We returned to Elmfield at lunch time, full of thoughts of the exhibition, and the survivor stories for Holocaust Memorial Day.

Written by two students in class 8