

Fakenham Sixth Form A Level Geographers Complete Annual Coastal Monitoring



Year 12 Fakenham Sixth Form A Level Geographers completed annual coastal monitoring of the Salthouse shingle ridge on the north Norfolk coast on Monday 25th February 2019, during unseasonably warm weather. The fieldwork comprised the first of four days of A level Geography fieldwork, in order to allow students to complete their Non Examined Assessment in the form of independent geographical investigations.

This year's survey work showed a slight increase in the height of the shingle ridge since last year, with depletion in shingle levels further down the beach. Fieldwork completed by Fakenham College/Fakenham Sixth Form A level Geographers at this same location over the past seven years, have shown the shingle ridge not only reduce in height but also migrate inland in response to a series of significant storm surge events.



The impact of the longer term changes in this landform were further analysed through studies of flood risk along this length of coastline during fieldwork on Tuesday 26th February 2019, together with studies of the neighbouring town of Sheringham and how its interaction with the coastline has changed the character of this settlement over time. These studies were supported through a visit and presentation at Sheringham Museum.

Colin Bye FRGS, Head of Geography, Head of Humanities, Social Sciences, PE and MFL Faculty.

What's On

5th April

Last day of term

8th to 22nd April

Easter Holidays

23rd April

Back to Sixth Form, start of summer term

23rd to 27th April

DoE Practice Expedition

13th May

Exam season starts

20th May

Year 12 Full Reports issued

24th May

Last day of half term

27th to 31st May

Half term

3rd June

Back to Sixth Form, last half of term

Art competition winner!

Response 2, is an Art exhibition/competition held at Norwich School in the Crypt gallery. Year 12 students across Norfolk are invited to submit entries of Art based on a 'response to' a local exhibition or place of interest. Many Sixth Form colleges entered the competition and entries were viewed by a panel of judges to select which pieces would be exhibited at the Crypt Gallery.

Milliella King entered a piece of work based on a response to the work by artist Francis Bacon, at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts. The sculpture was titled "meat dreams" and was successfully selected to be exhibited at the gallery. This in itself was a great achievement!

On the 8th of March the private viewing took place and prizes were awarded by local businesses. Milliella was awarded **first prize** by Hudson Architects, who said her work was beautifully created.

The work on exhibition was all of a high standard and many people gave praise to Milliella on the quality of her work.

Well done Milliella



Host Families wanted

Would any family be interested in accommodating a Norwegian student from September 2019 for one year? This is a fantastic opportunity—numerous informal exchange visits have taken place as a result of hosting a student. If you are at all interested please contact Mrs Higgins for more information.

Fakenham Sixth Form

NEWSLETTER

March
2019



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Berlin Trip March 2019

During the early hours of Thursday 7th March, 33 Students accompanied by three teachers and our excellent 'tour guide' Mr Eaves travelled to Berlin. While in the capital of Germany, we experienced a culture rich in History and a public enthusiasm for 'Currywurst' (which I did not share).



On our first day we visited 'Checkpoint Charlie', the former border crossing between East and West Berlin (1963-1991) where we learnt about the victims of the city's division and had just begun to learn about the tragedy embedded in Berlin's history. We then walked a short distance to the 'Topography of terror'

which is situated where the old 'Gestapo and SS headquarters' was during the 'Third Reich'. In its place stands a modern exhibit which explains the 'terror tactics' of the Nazi Government, the exhibit described the range of atrocities committed by the Nazis. That evening our tour guide 'Herr Eaves' gave us a nighttime tour of Berlin where we visited the Reichstag (the German Parliament building), the Brandenburg gate and the memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe. The memorial is a symbolic monument located in the centre of the city, which has no definite meaning, but in the dark it appeared like a graveyard; creating an atmosphere frightening enough to scare some members of our party...

The next day we visited the concentration camp at Sachsenhausen, where we saw a different type of graveyard, as although Sachsenhausen was a concentration camp, tens of thousands of prisoners were either executed or worked to death within the compound. This was the most difficult visit, as it forced us to view the physical consequences of the Nazi regime; we were no longer talking about stories of hardship to question 'how an omnibenevolent God could allow this' for a Philosophy and Ethics exam or figures in textbooks for our History course, we had to remember these were real people who were forced into horrible conditions. Not fiction. In the afternoon, we visited the 'Berlin Wall Documentation Centre', where we received a tour of the Berlin Wall and discovered more about its evolution, its victims and why it was built.

On Saturday, we revisited the 'Memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe' where our tour guide spoke about the possible meanings of the monument. Afterwards we went beneath the memorial where an exhibit dedicated to the Jews, details the horrors they suffered and provides names and faces to the collective group. In the afternoon we travelled to the 'Wannsee Conference house' where the Nazis decided how to deal with their biggest issue; the Jews. That evening, we revisited the Reichstag, however this time we went inside and climbed to the top of the building which holds a beautiful view of the city, especially at night.

On the Final day, we ventured to the 1936 'Olympic stadium' and discussed how the whole world was misled by the Nazi 'Theatre of politics', as the Olympic games were a distraction for the construction of the sinister Sachsenhausen concentration camp. We also went beneath the city into a World War two bunker featuring antiques such as; board games, weapons and war related objects which had been adapted into household items (like a helmet made into a colander).

After four days crammed with history, philosophy and (lots of) walking we returned home completely exhausted Monday morning. Berlin has a tragic history but the modern city is even more admirable after you understand its past and what it has overcome. However, you may wonder why the country keeps so many constant reminders of the horrors of its past but these serve as moral reminders for people to consider their actions and to make sure to never repeat the past.

Auschwitz: A Year On

I don't know why I said yes to Berlin. After visiting Krakow in March 2018, you would think my journey with the Holocaust was over. But, like the opportunity taker I am, I jumped at the chance. I thought it would be easy; after all, we weren't visiting an extermination camp like Auschwitz-Birkenau. *Surely* after walking through the gas chambers in Poland I could face anything. Oh how naive I was.

I will be the first person to admit I was scared, deeply, by my experiences in Poland last year. So much so it has influenced my work at Sixth Form and my own personal writing. But, until a couple of weeks ago, these scars had healed and became a distant memory - one that no longer haunted me at times when I least expected it. I had no more tears, no more moments struggling to sleep and no more bouts of silence that are so uncharacteristic for me. A year on, I learnt that it can take approximately three minutes for a year's worth of healing to be completely forgotten and those scars, which I thought had healed so well, to be gouged open again.

In my article last year, I wrote about feeling 'numb' as the pain from the death of over six million people was 'simply too overwhelming to comprehend'. I now comprehend. I understand the pain and not just from the death of six million innocent lives, but of the eleven million (civilians, P.O.W, homosexuals and other minority groups) who died due to the Nazi regime. I wish I felt 'numb' now. Instead, I now feel physically sick; a throbbing pain in the pit of my stomach and the tears, which were absent for so long, have returned.

How do you grieve for eleven million, innocent people who died before you were born, and you have only a small understanding of their pain?

I wish I knew.

When I told my family friends I was going to Berlin, they said to me not to mention the war. The dreaded N-word was *definitely* not to be used, even when talking about historical events. Under an hour into the trip I realised that the war and the Nazis are a defining part of Berlin. You cannot escape the fact the Nazis rose to power, it is almost written into the very bricks of every building, or on the tips of everyone's tongue. You cannot forget. Although this makes Berlin, much like Krakow, a city of ghosts, Berlin is so much more scarred than the Polish cultural hub. A majority of Berlin was either bombed by the Allies or demolished by the Nazis themselves, leaving very little of pre-WW2 Berlin standing. Furthermore, the infamous Reichstag and Brandenburg Gate - survivors of the war - are just that, infamous, due to their strong links to the Nazi Party. In fact, any buildings which survived the war will have some link to the Nazis. It is inescapable.

Berliners could have demolished everything that was left. But they didn't. Although they are still rebuilding the capital today, and still find unexploded bombs when building a new apartment block, they aren't trying to cover up their past. Instead of demolishing the Reichstag, today it's Germany's parliamentary building. The Brandenburg Gate still stands tall and mighty. The Olympic stadium, where Hitler was notoriously pictured attending the 1936 games, is home to 'Hertha BSC' - one of Berlin's football clubs. Even the SS run 'Concentration Camps Inspectorate' at Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp is now Berlin's police training academy. More shockingly, air raid bunkers still fill the walls of the metro stations, doors open to reveal miles of caverns, all of which were once filled with scared, innocent people. It's a world away from Harry Potter.

Last year it was Płaszów which touched me. This year it was the 'Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe', a beautifully fitting sculpture in the centre of Berlin (again making it unavoidable). Walking through the maze of what may be interpreted as tomb stones really hit me; the weight of the concrete fell onto my shoulders. This is an experience I will forever have to carry, something I accept. It is a small mercy in comparison to the plight of those the memorial commemorates.

Krakow had no shame and could hide their scars. Berlin with all its shame, instead of covering sixty years of history which *defines* their country, wears their scars - not with pride - but with acceptance. For that I honour them; it takes courage to admit to and apologise for mistakes, yet it takes something more powerful to bare your scars to ensure history does not repeat itself. This is exactly what the amazing historians we met aim to do and, ultimately, was the whole point of the trip: to stop history repeating itself.

But it has, and will continue to do so. Prior to the trip I decided to do a little extra reading with the aim to fuel, not only my understanding, but my creativity. As a writer, there is nothing I believe in more than using my words for good. I wanted to understand what possessed fifteen men - before breakfast, in ninety minutes - to decide to systematically kill six million people. I also wanted to find out if this has happened again; I am sad to report it has. Different times, different wars, *same story*. From Auschwitz in Poland and Sachsenhausen in Germany to Con Dao in Vietnam; Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and Omarska in Bosnia; history is still repeating itself today. I was disgusted after *everything* to find minorities still being persecuted for being just that: a minority. Of course, not everyone is innocent in such places as these, I fully understand that; but I can assure you many everyday people are just as innocent as you and I.



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This was meant to be an article about my experience over four days, but if I wrote about just those four days I wouldn't be writing the whole story. The Holocaust and Nazi Reign only lasted for a few decades; but we still see acts of anti-semitism and groups of Neo-Nazis today. From hate crimes at Sachsenhausen to the Charlottesville riots to the accusations within the Labour Party, it is still not over; it is just the tip of the iceberg. So many more minorities are being persecuted *every single day*.

But why is it our problem? We are just a group of Sixth Formers and I'm just an eighteen year old white girl, why's it *my* problem? I'm not being persecuted; as far as privileges go, I'm near the top of the list.

That's why it's my problem. I have the privilege of freedom of speech and a voice which I can ensure will be heard. I vow to try and make a change, no matter how small. If there is one thing these trips have taught me, it's that humanity is truly the most amazing thing. As cheesy as it sounds, together we really can achieve anything.

By Sophie Brown



Cambridge STEM Day:

When we arrived at Gonville and Caius we were seated in a lecture hall for our first presentation which was from Rosie Costello, who is the Schools Liaison Officer for the college. This presentation was to inform us about how the Oxbridge applications process is quite different in comparison to most others, as well as how they work as collegiate universities. It included a lot about some of the misconceptions people have about Oxbridge and encouraging us to apply, not being put off by any of the stereotypes.

This was followed by our first lectures of the day, there were two which we could choose between. One being focused on biological sciences, the other a maths lecture. I attended the maths lecture, where we were spoken to about probability through different coin games. The lecturer repeated throughout the hour that maths at university isn't all about complicated methods, it is also important to be able to consider more complex problems applying really simple maths. It was very engaging and we were encouraged to contribute, making it as much like a real lecture as possible.

After this the two groups joined again and we had a short question and answer session with two second year students at the college, where we were talking about university experience at Cambridge and what some different courses are like in terms of workload and content. This was followed by a short tour of the college, we visited the library and dining hall amongst other places, learning some interesting facts about some of the areas of the college. We got to have a look in some places we wouldn't have been able to see otherwise, giving us an excellent insight into the life of a university student.

This was followed by the beginning of a presentation on the details of application from earlier and how the process works. Shortly after we had a cooked meal for lunch in the college dining hall, which gave us a taste of the kind of food that is provided at Gonville and Caius.

Then came our next lectures, either Natural Sciences or Engineering. I chose engineering, where we had a lecturer speak to us about the differences between different types of engineering and how she started out as a structural engineer, but now works on brain cancer cells and biological engineering. This gave us an insight into how later on in university it is possible to specialise into different areas because of the number of transferable skills you gain through each of the courses. The bulk of the lecture focused on how properties of materials are important on both a microscopic and macroscopic level and the same principles can be applied across both.

The day concluded with a final lecture, with everyone all together, about chemical structures. This included the use of diffraction in identifying structures of objects and how x rays work in a similar way, this was presented to us by one of the Cambridge admission officers, who covers it within his subjects. Then we had the rest of the admissions presentation, followed by small group discussions about interview questions.

We were then allowed some free time in Cambridge before catching the train home. Overall the day was very useful in informing us about Oxbridge and why it would be beneficial for us to apply, as well as giving us a good insight into life as a university student.

By Maddie Curl