



## **Poland Diary 2011**

### **Day 1 - Thursday**

Dear Parents,

We arrived in Poland bright and early after a pleasant flight. We had an introduction about the experiences we were going to face by watching the film 'Schindler's List' on the coach. The film showed us the harsh conditions that the Jews had to face during the Holocaust, and how one good person could change so many people's lives. Half way through the film we stopped at a cemetery in Kielce. Kielce is a town that Jews lived in before the war and Rabbi Riffkin spoke to us about how people returned because they considered it their home, even though they were previously forced to live in such difficult conditions. In 1946, after the war, the Polish Jews that returned were killed by their Polish neighbours. We were asked the question.... Where is our real home? And we need to think about this for the rest of the trip.

We met our tour guide, Sara, who is full of all the knowledge we will need to get the best out of this trip. She explained to us on the coach why she likes to guide groups like us around Poland. Both of her parents' families died in the Holocaust and so it means a lot to her to share the amazing stories of her ancestors.

We then returned to the coaches where we continued to watch the film. Most of us found it quite moving and we are really starting to come to terms with what our fellow Jews went through. After the film had finished we arrived at the original Schindler's factory where we took a group photo and had the chance to look at the pictures of people who he had kindly saved. After a long day we checked in at the hotel and ate dinner.

We will keep you posted with our daily emails and let you know that we are safe.

Lots of love Chloe Calman & Zoe Gibber

p.s. It is very cold!!!!