Amsterdam trip gives students time to reflect

By Emily Ogram

ON Thursday May 11, about 50 excited Year 8 and 10 students boarded the bus ready for the Amsterdam trip.

For many students this was their first trip away from their parents, and for a few it was their first time abroad.

The purpose of the trip was to further their knowledge on the Holocaust after studying the topic in philosophy and ethics.

The first day comprised of traveling into Amsterdam. There, Bruce (their tour guide) took them around the beautiful city visiting Nooit Meer Auschwitz, the National Holocaust Museum, the Portuguese synagogue and many other treasures of the city.

In the afternoon, students visited the Anne Frank House. Ida Eddy, a Year 8 student on the trip, said: “It was strange to think that you were standing in the exact same room that [Anne] and her family stayed in for so long.”

Mrs Rowlands, trip leader, reflected on the quote, “I’ll make my voice heard, I’ll go out into the world and work for mankind”, which was taken from Anne’s diary and written on the walls of the house in both Dutch and English.

On the last day in the Netherlands, the group visited the John Frost bridge in Arnhem, Commonwealth war and civilian graves in Oosterbeek and Kamp Vught which was described by students as, “breathtaking”. The camp was in the original site with the original crematorium, however the majority of it was re-constructed and the part opened to the public is microscopic compared to the size of the camp used by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

Mr Stones, deputy trip leader, said: “The Amsterdam trip gave students a chance to reflect upon events that changed the world into what they know today, but most of all to begin to understand the incredible and complex capabilities of the human spirit in the face of fear, ignorance and extremism.”

While student Kai Briggs commented that he, “loved every bit of it.”

“Many life lessons were learnt and things like the Anne Frank House and Kamp Vught made you evaluate how lucky we are to have our lifestyle” and that, “the trip has taught us a lot in a fun, unique way and I’m thankful for the opportunity.”

Advice on preparing for exam revision

AFTER a well-deserved Easter break, students and teachers of Norton College Sixth Form are back and ready to prepare for the exam season.

Many of the subject areas had finished all topics just before Easter, leaving the remaining weeks to focus on revision with a teacher’s guidance. This allows teachers to communicate with the teachers in time for their exams as the teachers run through the topics that students may feel less confident with.

Norton College and Sixth Form organized a revision afternoon where many students and parents attended to learn the best ways to revise for the exam season.

Norton College believes that together, parents and teachers can guide and support the young people in these final, critical weeks and ensure that they achieve beyond expectations.

As a college, it’s expected that students revise independently at home, however some students may need help with ideas on how to revise and how not to.

The afternoon was presented by the deputy head teacher, Dr Simon Carson, who gave Year 11 and sixth form students and parents the appropriate guidance on the most successful revision strategies, how much revision students should be doing and the importance of well-structured revision.

Some of the revision techniques discussed have been proven to achieve good results. As a result of a successful evening, not only did the parents gain more motivation and knowledge to ensure that their child performs in the best way possible for their exams, they also took home a free guide to revision produced by Norton College itself.

Although the main focus of the afternoon was revision strategies, Dr Carson didn’t fail to mention the factors of a healthy lifestyle which some students tend to forget during the exam season. This includes the significance of breakfast, a good night’s sleep and exercise to reduce anxiety and stress.

By Tamara Tavares, Year 12