

A Visit to the Jewish Museum

Jamie Clarke, RE Teacher

At GCSE, Judaism is one of the two religions studied as part of the AQA syllabus. In addition, students in Year 8 undertake a period of study during the autumn and spring terms which revolves around the religion of Judaism. The purpose of this visit was to enrich our subject knowledge so that we could provide a deeper awareness of the beliefs, teachings and practices of the religion. Albeit relatively small, the museum was incredibly informative in terms of providing details about the history of Judaism and its respective beliefs and practices.

The museum features two dedicated floors with highly informative and inspiring displays providing a deeper insight to the religion. The first floor concentrated on the history of Judaism which focussed on displays that traced back to the roots of the religion. A small section of this floor gave an eye-opening insight into the Holocaust and excerpts from those who survived this dreadful tragedy.

The second floor provided a range of various displays and information stations which focussed on the beliefs, teachings and practices of Judaism. It was interesting to see artefacts such as excerpts from the Torah, the Ketubah (wedding contract) and a replica of the Ark which is the cupboard containing the Torah scrolls. The images taken and our personal experiences from this visit have been incorporated into the lessons which are taught to give our students a more 'realistic' insight into the religion. The additional knowledge acquired during this visit has provided Rachel and I with an even deeper understanding of the religion so that we can provide the best possible experience of the religion both at Key Stage Three and GCSE.

