

## Berlin 2012

By Sean Moulton

Setting off to Manchester Airport on a cold, wintry morning in the middle of December sounds such fun. Well, that's what 14 students and 2 teachers had to do on the 18<sup>th</sup> December as we were setting off to Berlin, the capital of Germany.

The tour of the Checkpoint Charlie museum was pretty good. We learned about the different ways people from East Berlin tried to escape into West Berlin without being killed by the guards. These ways included sneaking into cars, going over in balloons or rowing across the river.

During our tour, we learnt about the Holocaust and how Israel was formed. We also went into a replica of a gas chamber in a concentration camp. It was pitch black, and you couldn't see your hand in front of your face.

With that ordeal over, we set off to see some Christmas markets in central Berlin. Here we could either go into a department store or we could walk round into the markets to see what they were selling.

The next day we visited the Olympic Stadium. We were given a guided tour of the venue which hosted the 1936 Olympic Games and the 2006 FIFA World Cup. It wasn't just a main stadium, like in London, but many other mini-venues outside the stadium such as an outdoor swimming pool and a hockey pitch. The best part of the tour though, was that the group was given the chance to stand where Adolf Hitler stood when he opened the Olympic Games in Berlin.

