

yipworld – The Same...but Different Newsletter

For the past 18 months yipworld has been running an anti-sectarian group – ‘The Same...but Different. Yipworld has ran various workshops in Cumnock and the surrounding towns, in a bid to increase the understanding of sectarianism and hopefully give them the confidence to challenge certain behaviors’ they see and which are deemed offensive.

As part of the project, a cultural visit to Northern Ireland was scheduled in order for the young people of the group to gain a real insight of the troubles past and present.



The trip was organised for the September weekend, and saw 8 young people pack their cases and head off across the water.

Yipworld worked in partnership with an organisation called Coiste, who took all our information and created a well thought out itinerary for the weekend.

Over the weekend the young people had tours on both sides of the wall, and were shown the murals on the Shankhill Road, each having their own story to tell.... we had our very own tour guide who was a former loyalist who gave very honest accounts of what his experiences were back then. While walking along the road towards the Falls Road, they were then faced with the gigantic wall that segregates both sides.



Closer inspection of the wall revealed millions of messages written all over it. We all stopped to have a read at some positive and some not so positive messages by the public. Fortunately the leader had some pens and the young people got to write a message on the wall.

Plum, the loyalist leader then walked us up towards the gates, which are still in use today. These gates close at 7pm every night by the police to ensure the safety of the residents.



For our tour down the Falls Road, we had a Republican, who again was very much involved in the war that divided the city. He gave us an insight into how he was brought up, living through the daily battles that occurred.



We were then given an opportunity to have a question and answer session with an ex Loyalist Prisoner, Ex Republican Prisoner and a former British soldier who was serving in Northern Ireland during the times of the troubles. This highlights how much Northern Ireland has progressed over the years, for

these men who fought against each other to be able to sit amicably in a room together and listen to each other's views. Now they do not have to agree – which they don't. But to be able to control and conduct themselves in a respectable manner speaks higher volumes. Bringing this back home to



Scotland and even closer to home, highlighting to the young people, that it is completely ok to have your own views but there is a time and place to show them.

We visited the Crumlin Jail, which was used to house many political prisoners over the years. This jail has been



stripped back and shown in its original state, such as the tunnel running under the street to the court room, the cells and even the original noose that's still hanging in the chambers today.



On the trip we enjoyed attending the beautiful Victoria Shopping Centre and dining out in the evenings. One Mexican Restaurant even let us keep our sombreros.

Overall the trip was very memorable and we came back with a whole new outlook. If Northern Ireland can work towards sorting out the political issues with pens rather than guns...then Scotland, has hope on the horizon.