

## **Students from the Katsir High School in Holon visit the Cyprian Kamil Norwid High School from Wyszaków**

Jews have long been, and will continue to be, part of Polish history. With this fact in mind, the community of the C. K. Norwid High School from Wyszaków met Jewish students from the Katsir High School in Holon, Israel, as part of the programme *Preserving the Memory. The History and Culture of Two Nations*, in which the Wyszaków school has participated since 2012.

The meeting consisted of a few parts. It began with a visit to the site of the Treblinka Death Camp, where the German Nazis murdered Jewish people. Songs were sung and poems recited on the site to commemorate the murdered victims of that extermination centre. Afterwards, all participants drove to the Wyszaków school.

Upon arrival at the school, the Polish students welcomed their newly met Israeli friends with snacks and refreshments. Next we all went to the gym, where our school principal, Mrs Dorota Piotrowicz, officially welcomed the Israeli students and teachers.

Afterwards Aleksandra Góralewska and Bartosz Gołębiowski from Class II a recited Antoni Słonimski's poem *Elegy to Little Jewish Towns*, in Polish and English. This was followed by the Polish group teaching their Israeli counterparts how to dance the polonaise, while the Holon students, in return, taught their Wyszaków friends how to dance *Hava Nagila*. Finally, teams from both schools played a football match, which ended with a 6:5 win of the Wyszaków school (with one of the Israeli teachers playing in the Polish goal).

Unfortunately, the Israeli group had to leave at 5 pm. The groups exchanged souvenirs, took a lot of photos and promised to keep in touch. Saying good-bye to each other lasted almost till 7 pm.

After a week spent in Poland, the Israeli guests returned home, and although both groups had little time to get to know each other, they nevertheless managed to discover common areas of interest and take to each other. They had a chance to see for themselves that young people all over the world, regardless of their nationality and religion, share a lot of similarities: they like laughter, having fun, dancing, learning about the world, meeting new friends and good food. The meeting will remain a memorable experience.

### Evaluation findings:

1. Most students were disappointed that not all objectives of the meeting had been fulfilled. The programme of the meeting had to be modified due to a limited time the Israeli students could spend in the Wyszaków school. The workshop planned for the meeting could not take place and the meeting itself was shortened.

2. Yet the students liked the meeting itself and its final form.

3. The Polish students think that such meetings should be organised regularly and they should last at least for two days, thus allowing them to get to know each other better. Also, the Israeli students seemed to want the meeting to last longer (they procrastinated the departure and their teachers found it difficult to make them board the buses).

4. The Polish students are interested in continuing the project and most of them would like to visit Israel. They keep asking if a competition has been announced yet for a subsidy on a trip to Israel.

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