



Redditch Rumours

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How does the cost of living affect teens?

When most people think of the effects of the cost of living crisis, their mind wanders to adults or families struggling to afford clothes or food for the week; however, teenagers and young adults also feel this pressure. Most teens like finding new hobbies, buying new clothes, purchasing gifts for friends and family, or getting snacks for gaming nights. Going out can also be difficult with bus fares increasing, movie tickets rising and snacks going up by 10p every couple of months. Many young people will also be thinking about getting cars, trying to afford petrol or university, which puts a lot of people into debt. This can be a struggle with the prices constantly rising due to inflation, especially if they don't have a good paying job.

The jobs are scarce for young people, many being low paying as they aren't old enough for minimum wage or be-

ing denied jobs due to age. Under 16-year-olds struggle with finding good part time jobs as places like Starbucks or Tesco's require you to be at least 16. Jobs like newspaper rounds are left open however this needs a lot of effort for a low income. For example, the Look Locale pays 5p per paper, so if you did 500 houses in one weekend you'd only gain £30 each month, this can be good for some people but with the going rates it won't get you a lot and its very time consuming. Even though there seems to be a range of part-time jobs for over 16-year-olds, often they don't fit with school hours so unless you're at university or have a flexible timetable these jobs don't work either. Apprenticeships are available however not everyone wants this or can find one that takes their interest out of the limited local ones, as hands on isn't always someone's strong suit.

Even some volunteering places or summer jobs are restricted to over 16, meaning teenagers can't get work experience as easily. Mobile phone apps

are available and there are some good ones like Indeed and Jobs4Teens which are better suited for young adults, but apps like LinkedIn are better for older people and most apps need you to be at least 16, making it difficult for secondary schoolers to get decent paying jobs so they can save for either future homes and cars or the latest video game and gift for a birthday. University fees get bigger each year, with the interest on student loans being so high that people still have to pay it into their adulthood for many years, adding stress onto finding good paying jobs, low rent or their mortgage.

This is why staying at home seems more cost beneficial now, yet some people don't want to go to their local universities or can afford the train tickets or fuel to travel every day.

Nonetheless, not all hope is lost for teenagers and young adults, there are suitable, good-paying jobs out there if you dig deep enough, like looking for small businesses in your area, help wanted signs, email your local universities for work experience and use apps made for young people. With decent jobs and a savings account, you could

potentially earn enough to afford all the necessities and luxuries in life from a young age if you plan things properly and don't spend everything in one go.

By Lydia Carr

Study tip of the term

It may be beneficial to study with friends. They can hold you accountable which could give you motivation to do your work.

Additionally, if you're studying the same subject, you can help fill in gaps in each others knowledge and quiz each other. This is scientifically proven to help with revision.

Trinity Commemorates the Lives Lost in the Holocaust in Emotional Auschwitz Visit

On Tuesday 10th February, six students including myself were given the unique opportunity to visit the sites of Auschwitz I and Auschwitz Birkenau where approximately 1.1 million people were brutally, mercilessly, and systematically murdered. It is estimated that of those, roughly one million were Jewish. This was just one of many camps that contributed to the murder of six million Jewish men, women and children.

Since then, Auschwitz has become synonymous with the Holocaust and a global symbol of the genocide perpetrated by Nazi Germany and its collaborators. It serves as a brutal reminder of what can happen if prejudice and discrimination go unchecked. It is vital that in today's society we remember the lives lost, understand the significance of Auschwitz, and how it stands as a memorial for an event that changed the world.

We first visited Auschwitz I, which during its operation housed around 400,000 prisoners and was turned into a museum just two years after the war

ended. As we were guided through, mass piles of glasses, shoes, briefcases, prosthetic limbs and even human hair were on display, offering a devastating insight into the extent of the shocking dehumanization that took place. This is why it is so important that we remember the individuals behind the statistics and understand that these were ordinary people that lived ordinary lives, just like ourselves. For many Jewish people, they were well integrated and accepted into society. For example, Marta Swiderska, a former resident of the town of Oswiecim, later known as Auschwitz, stated how the Polish community in the area would have no objection to Jewish festivities. She said 'If there were Jewish festivities, the Poles also felt it was their duty to decorate the windows of their houses. It was as if an agreement had been made, an agreement for mutual respect.' Additionally, there were pictures depicting different hideous aspects of life in the camps that were tough to look at and a book of names that consisted of nearly five million Jewish names of victims of the Holocaust. Another element you just can't come to terms with no matter how much you try.

It is equally important that we remember the perpetrators were human too, not just the victims. What was striking for a different reason was the proximity of camp commandant, Rudolf Hoss' house. Rudolf lived with his wife and children just across the road from the camp. He lived there, raised a family there, just across the road from where the barbaric treatment of Jewish people and other 'undesirables' was happening and he oversaw every aspect of it. Just let that sink in.

Whilst at Auschwitz I we were also walked through one of the many gas chambers used in attempt to exterminate Jews. Following their footsteps, knowing that most would not have walked out of the other side, is something I'll never truly be able to process. As a mark of respect, we walked in silence. A powerful silence.

We then visited Birkenau, used primarily as a death camp where the mass murder of Jews and other targeted groups occurred. The cramped, unhygienic living and working conditions were something unimaginable to us today, leaving many prisoners suffering

horribly from disease. What became instantly noticeable, however, was the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape. It was hauntingly beautiful. Everything was still, an incredibly peaceful atmosphere which often fell in silence when our guide wasn't speaking. It really did feel as if nature had some form of protection around the site, making sure it is preserved for the future so many more can come and remember in person the atrocities that happened there. In stark contrast to the tragic history that the site had witnessed, a sense of peace, a sense of serenity had settled. Our time concluded with a short but touching memorial where short extracts, poems and prayers were read, and some candles were lit and placed to signify our tribute.

When at Auschwitz Birkenau we were told of a rare success story that, amidst the history of pain and suffering, managed to prompt a smile made up of many emotions. Families would often be split up when arriving at the camp but in the case of one mother and son, despite being separated upon arrival and not being in contact with each other, fearing what might have happened to them they were able to walk out of

the gates of Birkenau holding hands and were free to live again. Hearing a moment such as this was astounding and made you think that there is always a slither of hope no matter what. A wonderful, unexpected moment.

Participating in this experience is something I am so thankful for the opportunity of, something I am so glad I did, but something I would not do again. It feels more powerful this way, deeper and more meaningful. It's been over a month since the visit now and it is still, and will always be, impossible to fully comprehend it all. Seeing the faces. Reading the names. Millions of people that tragically lost their lives. It provides you with a much more compelling and personal connection to something that had previously felt so distant. By visiting, we are remembering and commemorating each individual person that was stripped of their humanity. As we should. No matter what I say here, it doesn't do the experience justice. It doesn't even come close. The poignancy of it, the remarkable calmness in the air. The vast, delicate landscape. The only way to see is to feel it for yourself. If, in any scenario you get the chance to visit, I wouldn't hesitate.

Of course, you won't enjoy it. It isn't meant to be enjoyed. But you won't have another experience like it. It strikes deep and offers you a new profound insight so that every Holocaust Memorial Day that goes by in the future, you can remember those who lost their lives in a more educated, deferent way.

By Freddy Pope

Word of the half-term

Groak— to stare at someone else's plate with intense longing.

We hope you all get plenty of Easter eggs so that you don't end up groaking.

Easy

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