

Lars Engelke

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Project course at the *SchuleEins*

Community school in Berlin-Pankow in the former Jewish orphanage

– Leslie Baruch Brent-Hall on 5 March 2025 –

In September 2024, an exciting, cross-class and cross-year project course for Year 8 and 9 started at *SchuleEins*. In this course, the pupils embark on a historical journey of discovery in the school's WH building. Many of the participants have no prior knowledge of the history of the building and its use – which makes it all the more important to explore it together!

The topics are varied and exciting:

1. biographies of former pupils and teachers:

What traces of the "previous tenants" can still be found in the building? What do their stories tell? The research into the escape routes of former pupils who had to flee persecution is also particularly interesting.

2. reference to the present:

What questions about the past do young people ask themselves today? How can Jewish culture of remembrance and commemoration be organised so that it remains exciting and relevant for young people?

3. reflection on categories such as "victim, perpetrator, bystander

Pupils take a critical look at the different roles in history and reflect on how these are still relevant today.

The course is enriched by many excursions to important extracurricular memorial sites such as the *Jewish Museum*, the *House of the 'Wannsee Conference'* and the *Topography of Terror*.

Through exploratory learning in their own school environment, the pupils not only expand their historical knowledge, but also develop their own questions, research in libraries, on the Internet, in museums and on site and learn to critically scrutinise information from various sources. At the end, they design their own multimedia temporary exhibition, which creatively complements the permanent exhibition at the Direktorenhaus Berlin.

We are currently still in the middle of the **work-in-progress** and therefore cannot yet present any final results. However, interested guests are cordially invited to gain an insight into our current status and ask questions in the room opposite – we look forward to the exchange!

In the coming years, we plan to continue the course and work with modern technologies such as **AI** and **VR glasses** to provide even deeper insights into history.

A great course that brings history to life and remains exciting for everyone thanks to innovative approaches!