

A week in the life of our Bielefeld Exchange 2015

Friday 18th September: The week kicked off with an early morning bus trip to Dublin where we boarded our flight to Dusseldorf at around 7.40 am. Thankfully all the planes and coaches were on time and we even arrived earlier than expected much to the joy of the host pupils at "Brackwede Gymnasium".

Saturday 19th September: The weekend was spent with families and the various activities they had planned for their Irish guests.

Sunday 20th September: Many students had the opportunity to visit the Sparrenburg Castle, the shops and some even went further afield to Cologne to see a desired football match.

Monday 21st September: It was now time for a little bit of the German school system and I am delighted to report that nobody arrived late for the early morning start of 7:50 am. After a few lessons the group made their way to a reception at the beautiful "alte Rathaus", where we were welcomed officially. In the afternoon there were some more opportunities for shopping in the beautiful town centre of Bielefeld.

Tuesday 22nd September: This was the longest day but well worth it. After a few hours on the coach we landed in the beautiful city of Düsseldorf. Our first stop was the Landtag where we were treated to complimentary "Kaffee und Kuchen" after an exciting tour of the parliament building. We even got a question and answer session from one of the leading politicians in Bielefeld, Frau Kopherr. This was the lovely lady who also took time to welcome us at the school on our arrival and gave us a complimentary bag of goodies from Bielefeld.

Wednesday 23rd September: This was the day for the sporty and adventurous amongst us. Needless to say the teachers remained firmly on the ground as the students scaled trees on zip wires to dizzying heights.

Thursday 24th September: **Today** was another early start as we experienced some more lessons. Alicia Clarke even impressed the English class with her singing ability why Darragh O'Reilly did not disappoint with his rendition of "Heads, shoulders, knees and toes....!" The town rally proved successful as teams battled to the end for the desired prizes. Well done to Fiona Knowles, Rebecca Walmsley and Claudia Totten for their part in the winning team.

Friday 25th September: On this penultimate day we made our way to the Freilicht Museum to see how our ancestors lived, before visiting the Hermann Denkmal and doing some last minute souvenir shopping in the neighbouring town of Detmold.

Saturday 26th September: After a final few hours with our host families we set off finally after many tears and hankies for the journey home. No doubt What's App will keep the contacts alive....

Bis zum nächsten Mal!!!