

Our exchange with Liverpool

Our journey to Liverpool began on the 30th January 2018 at the train station of Geilenkirchen. We drove to the airport of Düsseldorf and there we took the airplane to Manchester Airport. From there, we drove to St. Anselms, our exchange school in Birkenhead, by bus. The bus was driven by an old football player. Once, he played for the football team of England. But that was a long time ago. We arrived at the college at about 5 o'clock where we met our host families who took us to our homes for the next week. We spent the evening in the host families. Some of us watched an important football match and some of us had dinner in a restaurant.

The next day, we visited Liverpool. There, we had saw the Catholic and the Anglican cathedral, which was beautiful. We all were very surprised by the fact that the Catholic church of Liverpool was the partner cathedral of the Cologne Cathedral. Furthermore, the architect of the Anglican cathedral was also the designer of Britain's famous red phone boxes. After we had visited the two cathedrals, we went to Albert Dock and where we saw the famous three graces of Liverpool. These are three buildings at the bank of the river Mersey. The buildings (Royal Liver Building, Cunard Building and the Port of Liverpool Building) represent the former wealth and power of the British Empire. After all the sightseeing, we were very hungry and so we ate burgers in central Liverpool. Then we had some spare time to go shopping. Afterwards, we drove back to the college to our host families. The evening was spent in the host families. On Thursday, we visited our exchange students' school. The British school system was quite strange for us because the students only have three subjects for their A-Levels. Furthermore, they could use their mobiles. In the afternoon, we had a football match with our exchange students. The German team won!!! Then, we had an Indian curry which was quite yummy. In the evening, some of us went shopping in an outlet and watched a film in the cinema. On Friday, we visited Chester which is an old Roman city near Liverpool. Today, there is still a wall around Chester built by the Romans. First, we went for long walk through a park which was full of squirrels. They were almost everywhere. Then we had some spare time again and some of us used it for going to the next fast-food restaurant. But there were also some students who visited Chester's Anglican Cathedral. Some of us also tried a British speciality: Scones with Clotted cream and jam. We were back at the college at 4 o'clock. On Saturday we visited Liverpool again. Now, we went on the Liverpool wheel from where one has an excellent view over the whole city. Afterwards, we ate pizza in a restaurant called "Pizza Express". Then we had some spare time, but it was not that much, because we had to reach a football stadium in the suburbs of Liverpool. The football team, we cheered for, was called the "Tranmere Rovers". The football match was very good, but it was so cool that we all had to freeze. The evening was spent in the host families. On Sunday, we had a so called "family day". Me and my host family, we visited Liverpool and did some further sightseeing. They showed me some museums and buildings I had only seen from outside. This was a very cool experience. On Monday we had to pack our things for our return to Germany. We had breakfast in school and then we drove back to Manchester where we had some spare time before driving to the airport. Our plane took off at about 9 pm. In the end, we were home at 2 am. Some of us were ill and got a flew. What a pity for our beloved carnival.

One week later, our exchange students arrived in Germany. They arrived very late and so we could not do anything with them that day. They were exhausted and tired.

The next day we had to go to school. Some of the exchange students could not adapt to the German school rules which was not dreadful, but funny. The evening was spent in the host families. Again, we did various activities. Some of us watched a film in cinema and some of us watched an entertaining football match. On Friday we visited Aachen. Therefore, we visited the "Ludwigsforum" where we saw an interesting exhibition about video games. A few video games were entertaining, but some were also very strange. After that we all went to eat in a Mexican restaurant near Aachen's townhall. Afterwards, we had some spare time to discover the rest of the historical city. About 4 pm., we drove back to Geilenkirchen. In the evening, we had a merry party. On Saturday, we watched a football match of Fortuna Düsseldorf. It was quite entertaining. After the match ended, we drove into the city of Düsseldorf. On Sunday some of us drove to Roermond to show them the outlet and the old city of Roermond. On Monday, we visited Cologne. First of all, we visited Cologne Cathedral. This was followed by us climbing Cologne Cathedral and seeing the city from the top of one of the two towers. The view was spectacular! Afterwards, we had lunch in Cologne's famous brewery "Früh". We ate some of the region's specialities like "Himmel un' Äd" or "Rheinischer Sauerbraten". The "Kölsch" was a must! Then we had some spare time before returning home. Tuesday was the day of the days because the exchange students had already to leave. We all were very sad. But before the exchange student's departure, we had lunch at "Stinges" and "Esser". We think that the exchange students enjoyed it there. At about 2 o'clock, their bus arrived, and they drove back to Düsseldorf airport where they took the plane back to Liverpool.

All in All, I have to admit that I liked the exchange very, very much. It pleased me and the others to explore British culture. The exchange encouraged us to take part in such an exchange again. And we also want to thank all the people who made this exchange possible.

A big thank you to Mr. Kremer and Mrs. Stump who planned this exchange brilliantly.

Frederick Schmitz and Timo Gruijters, Q1