

WHAT'S GOING ON AT CDHS?



Hamburg Exchange

As mentioned in a previous edition some of our pupil recently visited Hamburg and Berlin in our annual exchange trip. Thanks to Mrs Bowles for organising the exchange and to Ms Todd and Miss MCuilloch for accompanying pupils. Nina Walsh-Kirk has provided her blog from the trip.

Tuesday 3rd September

We went into school with our hosts (at 7.50am!) and spent the first two lessons with them. After this, the whole group including some extra students from the school took a boat tour down the River Elbe in the city centre. We mainly saw the industrial site and docks which Hamburg is based around. After this we walked under the river in the Old Elbe Tunnel which was originally built for workers commuting. We did some sketching of the skyline and then travelled back under the river and along to the Elbphilharmonie. We got to experience a tour of the amazing interior and managed to see an orchestra practicing. After we had a quick 10-minute walk around the Hafen City and then got the train back to Othmarschen where we spent the rest of the evening with our hosts.

Wednesday 4th September

The day started again with the first few lessons with our hosts experiencing the different style of teaching there. Then all the Scottish Exchanges had an art day. We were taught by a teacher in the school, our project was to combine two landmarks, one Scottish and one German, and then paint our collage. I collaborated a stone circle and Brandenburg Gate. After almost a whole day of painting we spent the rest of the day with our hosts, where most of the group cycled to a shopping centre together.

Thursday 5th September

Once again, we started the day with a few lessons at school but after the Scottish group for us to go back out into the city centre. Our first stop was St Michels church. This was very grand and a beautiful church inside and out, we went right up to the top balcony where we got a fabulous view of the whole city. The next stop was the Europapassage, a massive shopping centre, however most of us spent our time in the food hall getting our lunch. After this we went into a little bakery and saw the ruins of an ancient castle and then travelled to the Hamburger Kunsthalle. We did some sketching of some famous pieces, followed by going to the modern art gallery. There was a very interesting video exhibition but unfortunately, we did not get much time there. After travelling back to meet our host we spent the evening with them and getting ready for travelling to Berlin the next day.

Friday 6th September

The first part of the day was spent on the bus driving to Berlin. But as soon as we arrived, we stepped out the bus right outside the Reichstag. We were fortunate enough to get to the top and see the amazing glass dome. The view of Berlin was amazing from the top and the warm weather made the experience even better. The next stop was the Jewish Memorial Museum. The tour was interesting and overall it was an eye-opening and sort of sad experience. This was followed by a stop at the Memorial for all the Dead Jews which was a series of concrete blocks. They had a profound impact on the landscape of the area. Finally, we walked to the Brandenburg gate which was flooded with tourists before heading to the Hostel. Shortly after arrival we walked to a nice Italian restaurant before heading to sleep.

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Saturday 7th September

We started our day with a visit to checkpoint Charlie where we sketched our surroundings. Then just across the road, we went to the Wall Panorama which presents a 180-degree view which depicts life at and in the shadow of the Wall on a fictional autumn day in the 1980s. After a short walk, we arrived at the Bauhaus exhibition where we partook in a very insightful tour of many interesting pieces and then had time to ourselves to explore. Next we were given time to explore the very heart of Berlin, taking time for lunch and a walk around. Following this was a memorable trip to the Pergamon Museum which contained reconstructed castle walls inside. This was our final sketching task where for an hour we did a detailed sketch of a piece or exhibit which interested us. Unfortunately, that was the end of the day and we left heading back to Hamburg.

Sunday 8th September

This was our last full day in Germany, and we got to spend it with our hosts. Most of us spent the whole day at the Elbe beach, soaking up the last of the summer sun and playing frisbee. Unfortunately, then having to return to our houses to face the reality of packing.

Monday 9th September

Once again back at school, we spent the first few lessons with our partner but after we had a goodbye party, reviewing our time there and snacking on a buffet provided by everyone. The time to journey to the airport came too soon and we sadly departed Gymnasium Hochard for the last time. The train journey was quick, and we arrived all too fast at the airport. We said our goodbyes, all of us already looking forward to when they would come over the Scotland and made our way through security, waving for as long as possible.



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