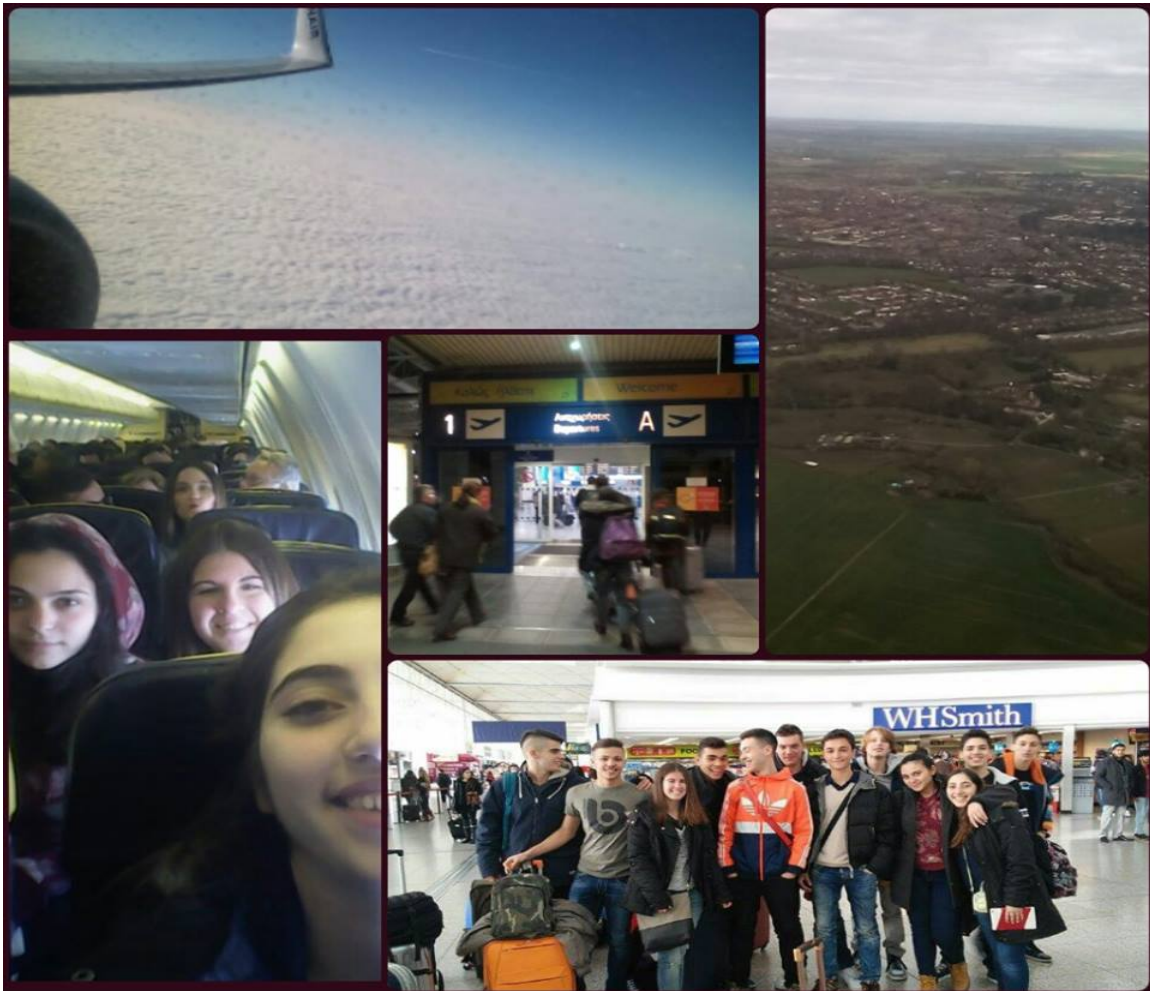


## MY TRIP TO UK

We left very late at night from my town, Tripolis, to go to the Eleftherios Venizelos airport in Athens. We couldn't have been more excited about it; the sooner we left, the sooner we would be in England. We were met by the crack of dawn when we were on board at the plane. And with a most cheerful and enthusiastic mood we left Greece to experience what would prove to be a life-changing week.

### *Sunday -Day 1:*

We crossed the English border at about 10 o' clock and after some time we were wandering at the airport of Stansted. There, it came as a serendipity to us to come across with the Italian group. After introducing ourselves we hurried to catch the bus to London



Having left our luggage at Victoria Station we set out to see the sights of London in the very limited time we had. We made it through the London Underground to finally reach the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye and the world famous Big Ben and many other worthwhile sights.



The time flew by as we walked around the impressive centre of London and in no time we had to go back to the Station. We took our last photos of London and prepared to leave it.





We went to Liverpool City by train where we had the chance to rest, even if we were too fascinated for that. There, two teachers of the Oldershaw Academy awaited our arrival and welcomed us. They led us to the School where we were met by the host families. My host, Charlotte, was there, and I was far beyond happy to see her again. Her mother and the student who was hosted as well as me were there, too, and he headed to the house where I was greeted by the rest of the family.

*Monday – Day 2:*

We went to the school where we would meet for the first time face to face the rest of the participants in the programme. The headmaster welcomed us and afterwards we were taken to CPL where we listened to a lecture from the CEO of the company about work market. In the meanwhile, we had already started to get to know the other students.



We were then given a tour of the facilities and the workplace of the employees in addition to learning more about the company's aims and their means to provide for its customers. During the lunch break we had the opportunity to speak with each other for everything we had seen and heard. The presentation of dream jobs of each country followed and after that we all returned to Oldershaw Academy to meet again with our hosts.





We had dinner at the houses and for the evening the students had organized bowling night so almost everyone gathered there. We had an amazing time and when we left we already knew half of the names of the others.

### *Tuesday – Day 3:*

On Tuesday, a trip to the city of Chester was planned. After getting there, we were separated into two groups; the one would walk the walls of Chester whilst the other would explore the beauties of the city and vice versa. Being in the second group I first visited the central church and the remains of a Roman theatre.



Then, it was my group's turn to explore the city walls. The whole route reserved beautiful sceneries and views of both the nature and man-made constructions.





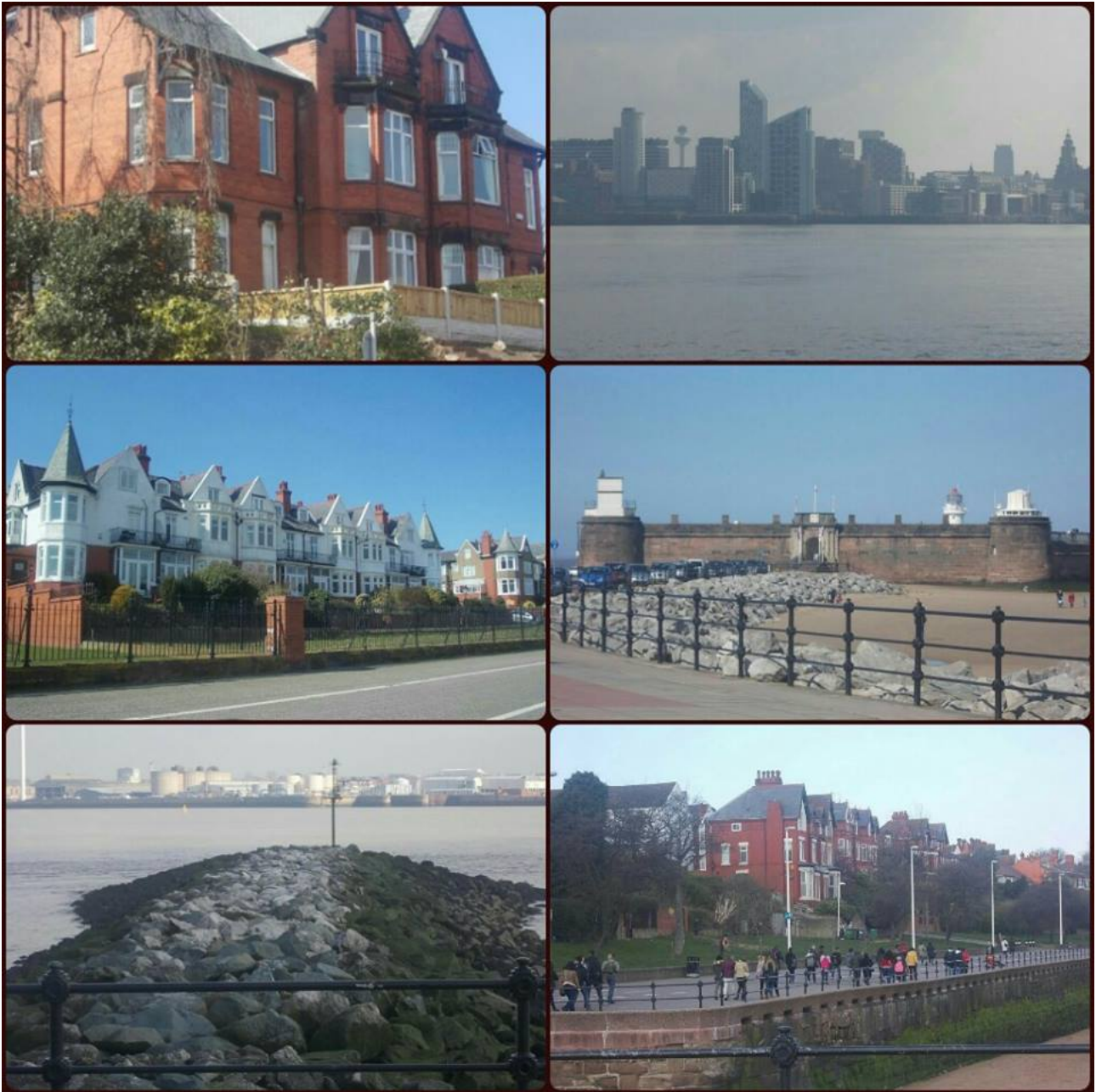
We went back to Wallasey and we spent the afternoon and the evening with the host families.

*Wednesday – Day 4:*

For that day, we would meet the mayor of Wallasey and visit the town hall. The mayor welcomed us and gave us a tour of the town hall while narrating the history of the building and the procedures that take place in it. We visited the conference room of the town council and the room where the scepter was kept. We then promenaded on the seafront and admired the spectacular view of the sea, the peculiar houses and the city beyond.





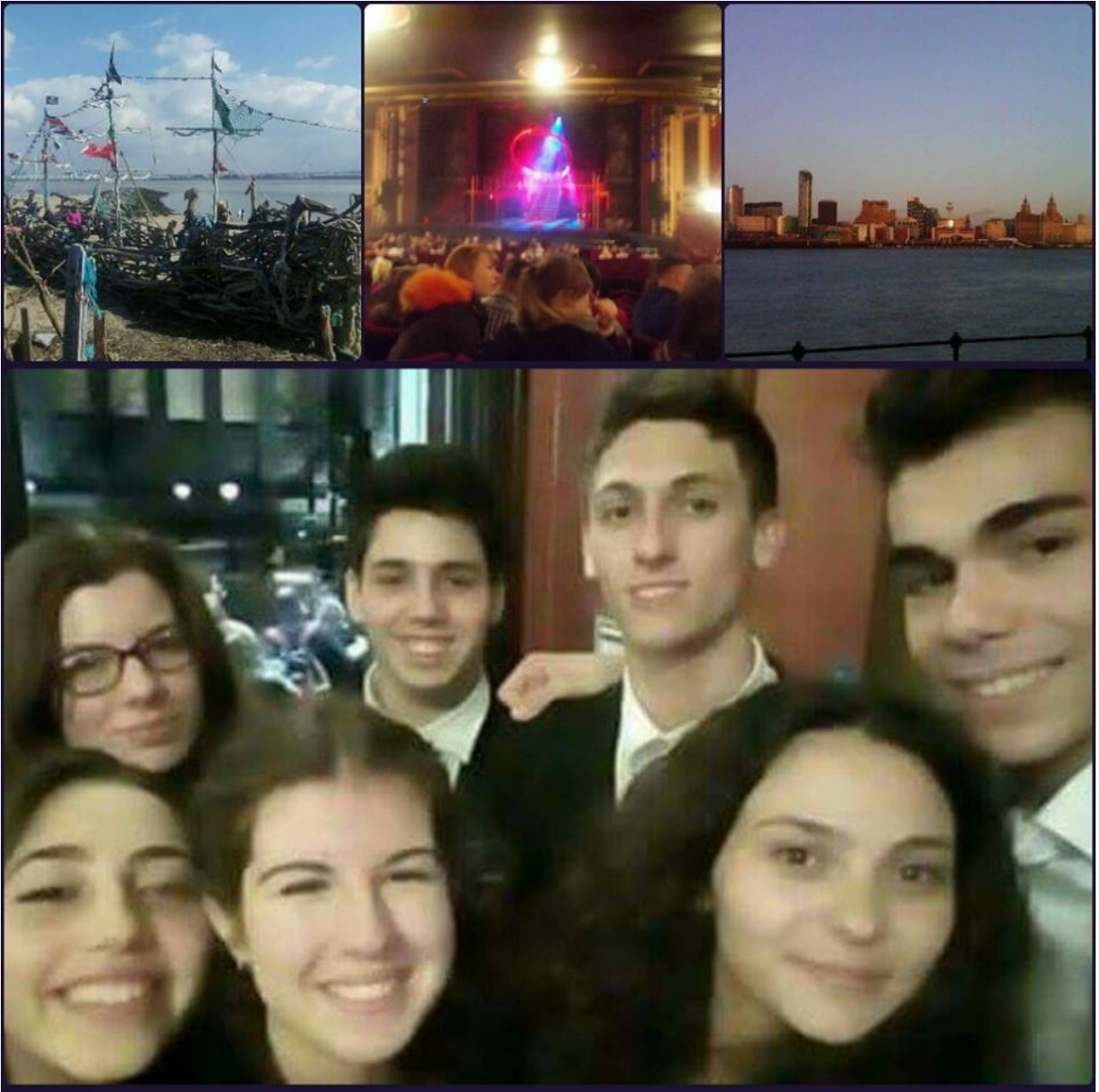


During our stroll my classmates and I bumped into a very surprising sign of a restaurant named after our home region. It was a very fortunate fact that, of course, we had to capture. We then returned to Oldershaw Academy where each student made their vision board.



We went back to the houses until early in the evening when we would go to Liverpool, to the Empire theatre, to watch the musical "Jesus Christ Super Star". All the students of the program along with their hosts were there and before going, we took a walk in Liverpool's market.





*Thursday – Day 5:*

Our fifth day involved many activities, too, but while staying at school. We attended classes of our host students and we could actually participate in them, we listened to a lecture about apprenticeships, we participated in an activity for developing team building skills, we were given a tour of the facilities and the infra structure of the school and got to spend time in the Common Room of Sixth Form.



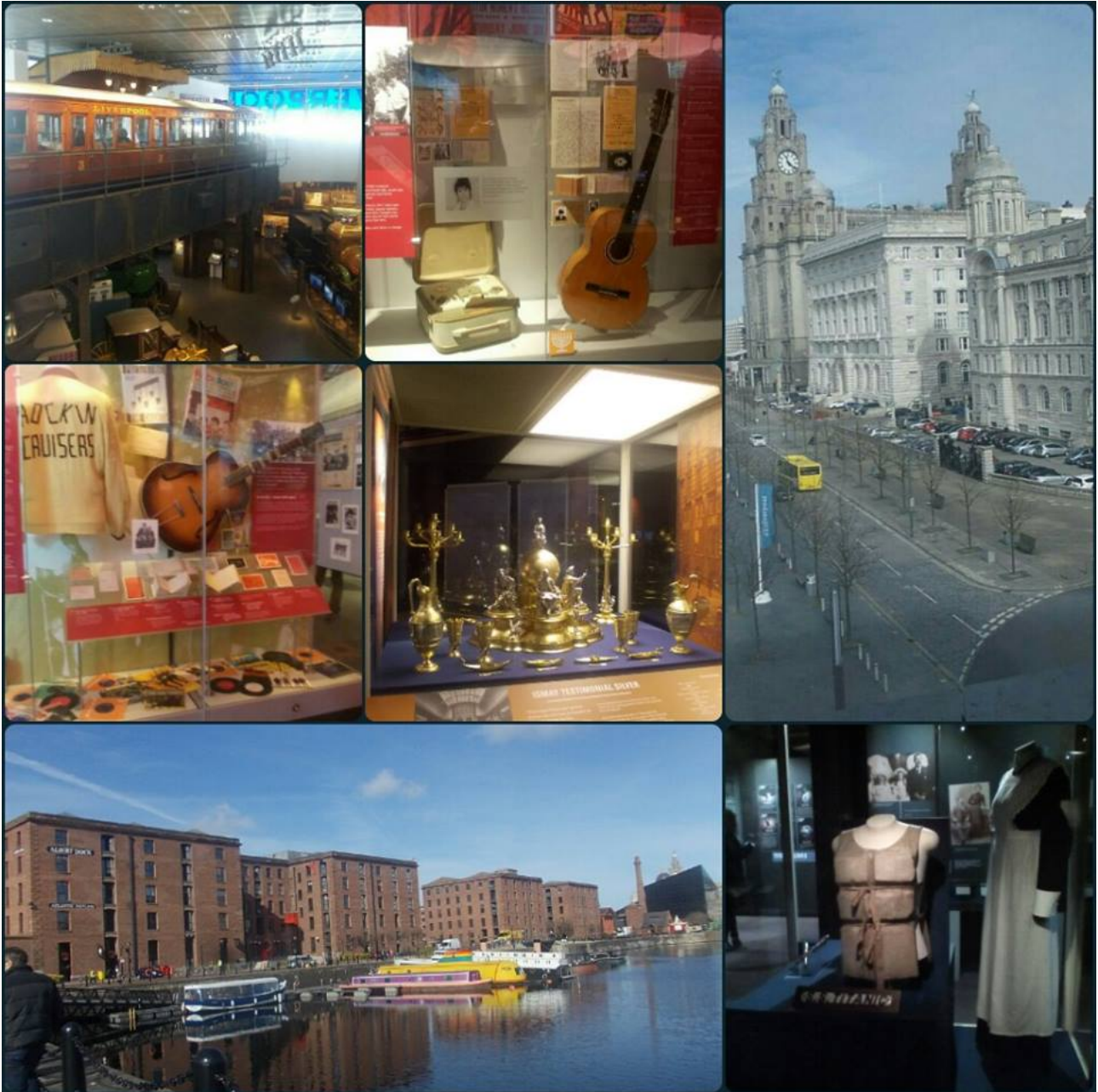
We had lunch at the school cafeteria where we had fish and chips, an English traditional dish and then we were mock interviewed for our dream job. We left the school and in the evening we met again with most of the kids at the bowling place.

### *Friday – Day 6:*

Our last day of activities, involved a trip to Liverpool and a tour of the most significant museums, the Maritime and the Liverpool museums, and of the Albert Dock. We then had free time for shopping and exploration in Liverpool before returning to Wallasey.







Friday night was a farewell night for me and for the other student who was being hosted by the same family as me.

### *Saturday – Day 7:*

We all woke up very early to make our things and to pack the suitcases as none of us wanted to ruin our last night by packing. My co-hosted student was leaving first so I went to the train station with him to goodbye him and the Italian group. At the same time there were the French group, too, so I managed to see the French, the Italians and their host students before my departure. We returned home and after an hour it was my turn to go. We were the only ones to leave at that time. The English teachers waved us good bye as we took the train to Liverpool.





At Liverpool's train station we had a fortunate encounter with the Turkish group where we exchanged contact information and promised to visit. After some last-minute souvenir shopping we took a second train to London and then a bus to Stansted. After having went through passport check and having given in our baggage we spent some time at the duty free shops and had lunch. After finding out that the Italian group was at the same time at the airport both we and they tried to find each other but the clock was ticking and we had to board onto the plane. The airplane took off and we were so tired and sad for leaving but I know for sure that none of us would or will regret it. We were back at Greece at several minutes past twelve in the midnight, Greek time zone.

*Sunday – Day 8:* We were back in Tripolis very early in the morning of Sunday, before the sun had risen. However, we all thought we were still in England, still enjoying this incredible week, still hanging out with our foreign friends. And it would take us some time to realize it was over.

