

Student report. Truro, 28th October – 1st November, 2019

Monday.

Monday the 28th was the first day all international countries met, along with some meeting their student for the first time. To begin with we started with icebreakers to get to know one and another.

We were separated to international groups and each presented a small presentation about myths and legends and how's this affect our heritage. After our break we moved to our studio where the English produced a kali dance accompanied with Spanish singing and a Spanish dance.

Later on, the international students were able to join us for an hour in our timetabled lessons. Which every county said was a completely different experience when compared to their home country. Many were fascinated with our canteen food which we take for granted.

After lunch we were in our international groups and got to know one and another through our diff rents myths and legends and how those affected our heritage.

We compared what was the same/different. It was really interesting to see how many of our stories are the same.

Tuesday – Tintagel Castle

The day began with all of the students meeting at school ready for the day ahead. We then got on the coach and began our journey to Tintagel which took just over an hour. The coach journey was a great opportunity for all of the students to socialise with others from a different country as nobody segregated themselves from the rest of the group and were all very happy talking to one another.

Once we arrived at the castle, we were split into international groups (e.g. The Italians and their hosts) and began to wonder the site. First, we had to cross the newly built bridge connecting the mainland to the castle which was split because of erosion around the area. As we were walking around the ruins of the castle it was a really good opportunity to share myths and legends between the two countries walking together. We gave the story of King Arthur who is said to have held his round table at Tintagel Castle which intrigued many of the other students. I feel that they really enjoyed looking around the castle and the Cornish coast as many hadn't seen anything like it before and it was a whole new experience for them. Even I was impressed at the amazing views around the castle as I had never visited it myself.



After we had looked around the castle and everyone was happy that they had seen everything that the castle had to offer, we decided to head down to the beach below to have lunch. This was really fun for many as most hadn't had lunch on a beach so it was a good experience for all. After this, we headed back up to the village of Tintagel to show everyone around a Cornish coastal village. We showed them all of the significant buildings around the village and went into many fudge shops to allow our guests to try a traditional Cornish treat. Finally, we got back onto the coach and headed back to school. From this, hosts took their students home and many had activities planned for their guests.



Wednesday – St Michael’s Mount & St Ives

We began the day comparing music tastes as we travelled on the coach through some typical Cornish weather (hammering rain). Quite awake, and with slightly less hearing capability than when we began our journey, we arrived at Marazion to see St Michael’s Mount. Despite the weather, we had a clear view of the castle and mount from the beach and took many pictures as well as skim stones into the smaller waves. Before arrival, we heard some information about the mount and the folktales its linked to e.g. Jack and The Beanstalk. Thoroughly watered, with some colder than others, we got back on the coach to travel to St Ives.

In St Ives, we had time to see this quaint little town and show our partners this coastal tourist hub. Many people warmed up in some of the numerous small, independent cafes with hot chocolates, dodging the rain and wind. Others visited the arcade as a way of keeping dry, and for a good bit of fun, with some seeming to just keep on generating more money from the 2p machines in a never-ending cycle of almost finishing, then winning cascades of coins upon coins. The group of friends I was with found a café that overlooked the bay and harbour. Here, we talked to our partners about the fishing port, beach and lighthouse that could be seen from the window, highlighting how Cornwall’s history was more than miners and smoke stacks, and how many people fish for a living, even to this day.

Thursday Falmouth

We took the train from truro at 10:00 to go to Falmouth and we arrived at Falmouth town train station at around 10:40 which is a short walk away from the Maritime Museum. The museum contains most of the maritime history of Cornwall, this is iconic for Cornwall is a peninsula meaning we are surrounded by sea on 3 sides meaning marine culture is very prevalent in our history.

This museum also contains an exhibition on the Titanic which was a great event in the maritime history of England. Falmouth is also the 3rd deepest natural harbour in the world giving it an important role in history. They have traditional Cornish boats and how they developed over time to suit the needs of the Cornish people. Lots of them were used for fishing because there is a large fishing industry in Cornwall.

We then went and got fish and chips a staple in the Cornish diet. We then took the train home at around 2:30. Later that evening we decided to celebrate Halloween as a group in Devoran (Halloween is a popular celebration in England so we decided to show them this piece of our culture).

Friday

We arrived at school at 8:30 then met in meeting room 3 at 9:00. We sat in international groups (which were a group mixed with all the different countries) then discussed and summarised our thoughts from this week’s experiences. We gathered our ideas on a table which let us learn the differences between all the cultures. Here is an example.

What is different about the traditions and holiday customs	What is the same/similar about the traditions and holiday customs	What surprises you about other countries' traditions and holiday customs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Halloween - celebrate (family) - signifying 'trick'• celebrate christmas on different days• halloween• Mid-summer bonfire and white-lime - festival• Bonfire night• Independence day - friend• Blue Cornucopia day - Italy• Obijaku alien - metal recycling - create• *Wagon on beach to celebrate Summer - Italy• Summer holiday - come to Italy (3 months) Ireland / Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christmas• New year eve• halloween - germany• england• City of light / Leuchtturm - england• germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christmas is on a different day• Lot of things we have never heard of

The table let us learn about diversity between the cultures’ traditions and holidays and express what surprised us from this discussion.

Once we learnt more about all the cultures, we started to devise a made-up international folktale. I was in group 4. Our groups story wanted to spread the message of ‘don’t judge a book by its cover’. It started when the villages started to mysteriously die. This led the villages to blame the Tintagel monster.

They pleaded on the villager's hero 'angelica' to save them. Once she was persuaded to help, she went to the monster and challenged him to a fight to the death. To the village's horror, the monster won by killing angelica. However, since angelica's death the village's deaths stopped. After an explanation from the monster the village came to realise that the 'hero' was in fact the killer and the monster a hero! Another group's folktale was called the Penairy fairy. The moral of the story was that if you were boastful and a show off the Penairy fairy would come and take your intelligence and spread it among the less fortunate. If they were to show boast about the intelligence that the Penairy fairy had secretly gifted them, she would take it back and give it to others. The cycle continues until one day the Penairy fairy was spreading knowledge and intelligence and trips up and spills it all over one person. Because of the knowledge she gave him, he became very clever and knew where to find the mischievous fairy; Tintagel Cave. He invited people at random to go and rid of the Penairy fairy, when they did, they had a party and renamed the cave. It was called the Rave Cave

Once we had finished the script, we performed our story to the other international groups and all the teachers. The groups used props such as cardboard swords and paper tissue. After the performances, the teachers decided on a winner, which was group 4. This group was given a box of chocolates each to congratulate us. We then talked about the performances and what each group's message was. Another tale was about the impact of climate change and what might happen if we do nothing and one was about plastic in the oceans.

After school on the Friday we got our students packed and ready to go, then got ready for our meal out with the other German and Croatian students Hub box. We all arrived and sat down at our table to order our food. Once we were finished Iness and Amelie had to leave so we said bye to them then all paid.

After leaving we walked to Nualas' house where we watched the rest of the Halloween movie and gradually, we filtered out of her house to go home.

The next morning we said bye to our students and hoped to see them again some time soon.