**Report on our Erasmus + Meeting in Scotland 22nd-28th September 2019**

Visiting countries were met at the train station by host families and everyone was very excited to meet their visiting students.

Monday

This was the first full day that our international students were here. We started the morning with some ice breakers, which were very fun and beneficial for bringing the nationalities together. After that we did a tour around the school where we showed them our facilities. They especially loved the swimming pool and the girls bathroom. We spent break time getting to know our students and sharing our cafeteria food with them. A new experience of cuisine for some of the countries! After break, we were taken through a Scottish lesson by Miss MacRae who taught us about Gaelic and the Scottish Clans. There was a competition where we made our own tartans, which everyone enjoyed. We also made wee tartan rosettes which we wore…. Although a lot of them broke quite quickly.

We ate lunch and discussed the previous activities. After lunch we went on a trip to the Wallace monument, where we learned about William Wallace, a deep rooted part of Scottish history. The international students loved the birds eye view of Stirling and the surrounding areas that could be seen from the top of the monument. Many selfies were taken.

When that was done, students took their international friends home, and they all split off and did separate social activities.

Tuesday

Tuesday began with some ice breaker activities that got everybody excited for the day and the trip. It was fantastic to see people from all over Europe come together and bond, fantastic and sensational!!!

We then moved onto the Engine Shed, a major attraction in the middle of Stirling. It was there we learned all about Stirling’s architectural history that captivated the foreign students in an indescribable way.

The third thing the group did on Tuesday was head up to Stirling Castle, a mighty fort that towers proud over the city. The students enjoyed walking around the castle and getting a feel of what it was like to live thousands of years ago as a knight, king, queen, servant, maid or jester. It was truly mind blowing, and the students are still blown by the experience that is Stirling Castle.

Tuesday evening took the group to a sushi restaurant within Stirling at 7.30pm. When making their way back towards the Castle, the Austrains took an unknown detour to the local McDonalds but were fortunately found quickly. Perhaps sushi was not to the taste of all the nations.

Wednesday

Wednesday was the day that we took a day trip to Edinburgh with our students. We met at the train station in Stirling at 9:15 in the morning for a train to Edinburgh. Once we arrived in Edinburgh we walked the royal mile showing the foregin students the sights. They all enjoyed seeing the historic Scottish architecture and the differences of it to the architecture from home. We then had some free time with our students allowing them to properly get a feel for what Edinburgh and Scotland was like, including the famous Scottish weather! Dreich! We finally met at Waverley Station at 1:45pm in preparation for a trip to Edinburgh Dungeons which gave the student an idea of Edinburgh’s chilling past. The first tour started at 2pm and the second at 2:15pm. After these tours we got a train home arriving back in Stirling for roughly 5pm where the students returned home with their hosts for the rest of the night. The students all enjoyed a fantastic trip out to a famous and traditional city.

Thursday

On Thursday everybody was so upset that it was nearly time to leave this wonderful place named Scotland.

At the break of dawn, everyone met at the train station to go on an awesome train journey over to the magical city of Glasgow where they walked through the city to the museum at Kelvingrove. We learnt more in a couple hours than we had in our whole lives, it felt. Then they went to do some more cultural activities on the subway, learn how it works and why it’s such an incredible invention, known in Glasgow as the ‘Clockwork Orange’.

Then we all went to visit one of the prestigious Universities of Glasgow, which is the place where people study everything from Accounting and Finance to Ancient History and Anatomy. I'm sure everyone learnt even more about how we teach things in Scotland and how school works over here, maybe even considering coming over to study here in the future.

Then we went shopping in the big city and enjoyed the typical Scottish weather, aka the magical rain that tends to show up at the most perfect moments and make everything seem like a movie scene.

We all enjoyed browsing in the big shops with the city lights all around us, everyone got some fun touristy things and most importantly made memories together, which is even more valuable than any knick knack you could find in a souvenir shop.

Friday

On Friday we took our students to Stirling Council to meet Stirlings Lord Provost, Christine Simpson. During this meet both the Scottish and foregin students alike got a feel for what it is like to work in the Scottish governmental system. This took several hours, allowing a real in depth look at her job. We then took some rest time to prepare ourselves for the ceilidh at night. This was a great set off for the end of the week showing the foreign students a view into Scottish traditional dancing and ceilidh culture, a very new and exciting experience for all of our visitors. It was a great end to the week!

Thank you to all for making this such a fantastic trip and a chance to learn so much about others. We look forward to the next time we can share these experiences together.