

# German Exchange

We exchange, not once or twice but now for the eighth consecutive spring!

Once again, it was a real pleasure to host a group of interested and outgoing students and their teachers from our partner school in Viersen, Germany. Our students and their families enjoyed giving them an insight into their daily lives and we showed them some of the best our region has to offer with visits to Manchester and Whitby stopping off at the incredible Hole of Horkum and visiting Harry Potter at Goathland train station. It is always a real pleasure to see young people from different cultures and backgrounds find common connections so quickly and the tears at the end of the exchange say more than any words could about how quickly friendships were formed over the duration of a week.



I would like to thank Sven Kels and Brita Kozian from the Erasmus-von-Rotterdam Gymnasium for helping me organise the exchange and our students and parents for making the week so special for our German guests.

Ms Fabian, Head of Year 7



This year has been the first time I have hosted an exchange student after visiting them in November last year. I absolutely loved staying with my German exchange student and her family. Not only did this trip give me an insight into German culture and food but it also improved my understanding of the language, helping me with my GCSE German course at school. I was really looking forward to hosting my partner as we got on very well and had a lot in common. They arrived at the airport late on Thursday night and we went to school the next morning. All of the exchange students were surprised at how much bigger our school is than theirs when they toured the building with our student managers. We later walked through town and visited the National Media Museum in Bradford and then went to Hollywood Bowl. I think this was beneficial for both the English and German students as it gave us an opportunity to talk to each other more. On Friday night me and Shivani arranged a sleepover as our exchanges were good friends. I think this made them feel more comfortable and settle in a little better. On Saturday, we met up with other exchanges and went to the Trafford Centre which they really enjoyed because there aren't any shopping centres as big as that in Germany. On Sunday, I took my exchange swimming as this was one of her main hobbies. When we got back we were quite tired so we relaxed and watched a few films together. On Monday, we were taken to Manchester where we visited a museum and then had an opportunity to go shopping afterwards. On Tuesday it was our final day of trips and we travelled to Whitby. Everyone enjoyed themselves as the weather was fairly warm and we got chance to take lots of pictures. I personally wasn't looking forward to Wednesday as this is when the exchange students went home. When it came to saying goodbye, everyone was in floods of tears. My exchange partner invited me to go and visit her in summer. If I could take part in the exchange again, I definitely would as it has been a great experience which I won't forget.



Olivia Gregory 10C

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: This was my first time hosting my German Exchange student after visiting Germany last year. The :  
: standard was very high after they made the week in Germany fantastic and packed full of many activi- :  
: ties to do every day. There was a lot more pressure on us as the hosts this time round and all the plan- :  
: ning and preparation beforehand was fairly difficult. As well as taking the students to Trafford Centre :  
: and swimming, I took my partner to the supermarket, which she surprisingly enjoyed as they don't have :  
: very big supermarkets in Viersen. During the week, we went to an ice cream :  
: parlour and on the final Tuesday night, I took her out for a meal, which she :  
: said was a really nice way to spend her final night here with her host family. :  
: Overall, I think she really enjoyed herself and even though the planning was :  
: stressful, it paid off and I thoroughly enjoyed myself too. If this wasn't my last :  
: chance to do the exchange, I would definitely do it again and hopefully we will :  
: be able to visit each other again and keep in touch! Shivani Patel 10C :  
: .....

