



## German Exchange

### Imogen Ambler:

I really enjoyed my time in Germany. I stayed with a nice family in an old farmhouse, with Carlotta, brother Lennart and her parents. Carlotta also has 3 pets; a pony, a donkey and a cat. This has been a very different experience to what I am used to in England, as I live in a busy village on the edge of a big city. I was very busy doing lots of activities. Over the weekend, Carli and I went to the Christmas market, and this was very exciting as the market in England is not as atmospheric or picturesque. On Sunday we met up with Oguzhan and Jack, and we went to the Netherlands. We walked around the shopping centre and visited the Cathedral which was spectacular. Then we went ice-skating, and afterwards to Oguzhan's house where we had a family dinner. This was great as his family are Turkish and I could experience a different culture.

### Annie Hannam-Pearson:

This was the third time I went to Hanna's house. We played my favourite game, Halli Galli! Viersen is a lot nicer than Bradford because it has beautiful buildings and friendly people. We went to the football match on Saturday, which was fantastic and there was a really good atmosphere! Borussia Mönchengladbach 5-0 Werder Bremen. On Sunday we went to the „Haus der Geschichte“. I found this very interesting and learnt a lot more about German history from after the war till now. Then we went to the house where Beethoven was born. There were lots of his old instruments and music that he had written. We went to a very nice tea-house afterwards which made me feel at home!

### Jack Burge:

During my week in Germany I made a new friend, not to mention his lovely family. We went to Köln and explored the sights in this city. We went to the dome and inside it was magnificent, we also enjoyed going shopping and I bought a new hat and some gloves! I think they are pretty cool to be honest! We explored the city and also saw the biggest mosque in



Germany, and the Köln tower, after that we went to a Turkish restaurant (Oguzhan's family is Turkish but he was born in Köln) the food was delicious. I have tried a couple of new things to eat but I think that I like the pretzels the best haha! On Sunday we went to the Netherlands and went shopping with Imogen and Carlotta, we visited Venlo and Roermond. We all had an amazing time there and I bought a new bag from Billabong. Later on we went ice-skating (with Imogen and Carlotta) I fell over only once (yey!) and Oguzhan fell over four times (haha!) overall I've had an amazing time in Germany.

### Olivia Dalby:

This was my second time in Germany but my first time doing the exchange. I was scared but excited for the experience. I was nervous about meeting Clara, I didn't know if she would like me but we got on like a house on fire. We had a jam-packed weekend and went everywhere from Düsseldorf to the Netherlands. We went to a Christmas Market and an adventure park. Clara's home is beautiful and her family welcomed me with open arms. They were so friendly and I feel like family. Clara is such a nice person and always likes me to help and I have learnt so much! She is a great person and we are good friends. I can't wait till Clara comes to England and I hope she enjoys it as much as I have enjoyed Viersen!

### Rebecca Hinton:

In November I had the chance to visit my exchange student after hosting them last spring and to see how they live. It was really interesting to live in a German family and experience a normal day in another country, it was also great to see my exchange student again as we got on really well. It was great to speak German there too although very hard! Everyone was so friendly though and didn't mind

when you made mistakes. Although you might think that Germany is quite similar to England in many ways it's also very different especially school. The school we visited is called Erasmus von Rotterdam gymnasium and was a very big school. Unlike Dixons the number of classes varies depending on how many children want to go so there are more of some years than others. The school starts earlier than Dixons and as many students live quite far away from the school we had to leave quite early in the morning. When at school we did not travel from classroom to classroom apart for a few subjects, instead we waited in the classroom whilst the teachers came to us! Another difference is that we carried our bags with us instead of leaving them in lockers, however as we did not change classroom much we tended to leave the bags in the room. School finished quite early which was great as it meant we had some time to do some really fun activities after school along with the ones we did at the weekends and on trips. It was a fantastic experience and I really hope I can go back again...

### Emma Allison:

Being in Germany has been a really good experience for me. The family that I stayed with have been fantastic hosts. I have done so many different things with them, including trying some typical German food. Also, we had a sleepover which was cool to see if the things that people do at German sleepovers are the same as English ones. We went to some stables which was really fun to see Yanca enjoy her hobby, it also helped me to overcome my fear of horses! I have found that coming to Germany has helped me gain confidence when I am speaking German, which will be helpful if I come here again in the future.

