

## **UK 2015 /London and much more! /19. - 24. April**

### **Here we come!**

On Sunday it was time to leave for England.

At 10 pm the bus should depart. The suitcase and the lunch-package, for the long journey, were packed. We met at the ZOB in Magdeburg at 9:30 pm. ...but someone had forgotten his passport, so he left us, went home, got it, entered the bus at the first stop and caused a delay. Our bus drivers come to us at the "Rasthof Lappwald". They, Utz and Ronny, told a little about themselves and then our long ride continued or better: It really started! During this - the ride! - the most of us tried to sleep but we did not have much place. At least we had cushions and blankets and that made the sleep more comfortable. Moreover our sympathetic bus drivers made enough stops; we could stretch our legs and the smokers did not have to suffer during the long tour.

The first big event was to get the ferry in Calais. We arrived in Calais at 8:30 pm. Now the longest part of our ride was over. We checked in, fortunately everybody had his/her passport and so we could get on the ferry at 9:50 am. On the ferry we could enjoy the wonderful view on the sea. The weather was very nice, too, the sun shone, the sky was bright and blue; not only me, but also the gulls liked this and accompanied us.

At 12 am we arrived in England and were welcomed with a magnificent view over the cliffs. Now we continued our trip to Canterbury on the other side of the road, which was quite unusual for us. Once there, we got a city map and hints of our teachers and bus drivers. They told us what is worth seeing in this city. We explored the city in groups. Some of us enjoyed the beautiful weather in an English garden or had an English beer and others went into the city and maybe they bought a small gift for the friends at home. There they met street artists, who entertained people with their music. It was a nice day, but now the excitement got bigger, because of the first meeting with the host families. Before we met them, we had a stopover on the beach. There was a typical graved beach with cliffs and the view was wonderful again. After a little ride we arrived in Seaford. Here we met and got to know our families and they took us to our accommodations.

The first meeting was very pleasant. All of us were very pleased with their families.

Constanze Kalkofen 12 K1

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We have been in Brighton on our trip.

This was the day after the first night with our host family. We had a good night and were fit for the day.

First in the morning we had breakfast. Our host dad prepared scrambled eggs, sausage, baked beans, orange juice and toast with marmalade for us. This really was a very typical English breakfast.

Then our host dad drove us to the bus where a few of the group already waited for the bus to arrive. We think it was approximately 8 o'clock. Most of our host families live in Seaford. This is a suburb of Brighton. So the time we spent on the bus was not as much as on the day before. But it was definitely enough! ;-)

When we arrived in Brighton we started looking for charity shops; because this was an information of our host dad and the girl who lived at this family for a few months. There were a lot of them and we did not have to look that long. For example shops like Oxfam, Shelter or "autism". It felt good to do something for people who need the help and nevertheless to buy very cheap and nice clothes.

Then it was time for having lunch and we met a few pupils in a little pub in the city of Brighton. It was a very nice and English one. We had decided for pulled pork, a variety of burgers and fish and chips.

After lunch we went to Brighton Beach and Brighton Pier. The weather was really good. We had a lot of sunshine but it was not too warm - so we could enjoy it. Brighton Pier was like a fair with a penny arcade, a carousel, a little roller coaster and you could buy a lot of sweets, too. We also had the opportunity to relax in the deckchairs which have been offered there for free. And we used this opportunity! ;-)

All in all it was a great forenoon with nice weather, nice people, new clothes, good food and a lot of fun!

In the afternoon we had to go to a language course. Confidentially: We doubted that this could be as relaxed or funny as the time we had in Brighton. But it was not as bad as we thought. Of course there were other things we were interested in as to sit in a little, stuffy room with three English teachers who did not understand us when we spoke German. And it also was very sunny outside. But the three teachers were really different.

We were divided into groups. In our group the first teacher was a young woman. She spoke very clearly and had a British accent. We think it was a good practice to listen to her for example for listening comprehension tasks at school. In this first hour we worked with recent newspaper articles. Divided into a group of three or four people we had to summarize an article of a newspaper. In our opinion this was a good exercise for mediation.

The second teacher was a very old man. But he was easy to understand, too. His lesson was less demanding. It was a little bit strange and a little bit funny because he thought that we do not know the English name for simple German words like 'Gabel'. Nevertheless, we liked him because of his relaxed manner and we could laugh with him.

Our last teacher was a woman again but a little bit older than the first one. She was an elementary school teacher and by the way – we noticed this because she played games with us the complete lesson. But these games were really cool and we had to concentrate. Here is an example:

Feet

Feet

Feet

Feet

Feet

Feet

The solution is 'six feet under'. Do you get it? ;-)

We would not say that the English lessons improved our English a lot but it was a nice experience and a good training to understand native speakers. Therefore it was a very successful day!

Laura & Sarah, 12K1

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On Wednesday the 22nd we visited London the first time. After the sustaining, lovely prepared breakfast of our host parents and the trip from Seaford to London, with the views on the beautiful landscapes and also many sheep, we got to know London's famous traffic. It took longer to get from the outer skirts of London into its city centre, than getting from Seaford to its centre. But our entertaining bus drivers and teachers made the waiting time into a funny sightseeing tour.

After we had left the bus near Buckingham palace, we had the chance to explore the capital of the United Kingdom on our own. We visited Hyde Park first. We could get an impression of the awesome gardening abilities of the British people and we met some of the tame squirrels. Then we went through the streets of London, searching for Soho and Chinatown. Some of us went shopping in the meantime. The architecture and the nice people of this city were impressive. When we finally arrived in Chinatown, it was a little bit surprising how small it is and how many restaurants two or three streets can contain. It was overwhelming

to see how many cultures can live in harmony next to each other, like in this place. We took our chance and had a break and a big meal from the buffet. Next we visited Trafalgar Square and Oxford Street with their great street artists and after that we discovered Covent Garden. The huge marketplace and its many tiny shops were a nice last stop on that day before we entered the bus near Cleopatra`s Needle to get back to our host family`s homes. When we got there for dinner we were already "pooped". That's what our host mom called our condition. But nevertheless we had a great first day in London and we all enjoyed it.

Luise Baumann, 12 K1

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After we had conquered the west of the city yesterday, we explored the east which is as diversified as the west. Our bus drivers Utz and Ronny dropped us off right in front of the famous Tower Bridge. The magnificent building of Heinrich VIII, the tower, in the vicinage of the River Thames transferred us back into the times of the middle ages. London offers a number of "old" and modern architecture. "The Gurke" and the Tate Modern are examples which allowed us amazing images from the inside and the outside which we took home. We were able to enjoy our midday break on one of the many meadows or at Covent Garden while the springtime weather was superb. We drifted in London`s streets until it was late afternoon. Satisfied with all the impressions of this metropolis we met the other pupils in the pub and ate something ``to come through`` the long voyage back. The last ale was relished before getting into the bus that headed home. Thanks to the moving traffic, we were able to leave London behind us very quickly and arrived at the ferry port in Dover early enough to approach the European mainland a few minutes before midnight. "Almost" well rested we arrived at Magdeburg around midday. We agree all - this voyage is "the enrichment" in a lot of regards.

Isabell Koch, Eric Friedrich 12K1