

## German Exchange to Lippstadt: Years 9 and 10



In October, 21 Maiden Erlegh students (along with Mrs Peduru and Mrs Foster) spent a week in Lippstadt, in North Rhine-Westphalia in West Germany. Most students had never been to Germany before and hadn't travelled without their parents. It was a very successful week – all students developed very good rapport with their exchange partners and many felt it had been an exceptional experience in terms of boosting their confidence as well as experiencing German culture.

### **Here are a few quotes:**

“This trip will be the most memorable trip I've ever had! They were so welcoming and it felt like I had a sister. The food was remarkable and I feel more confident in myself traveling abroad and staying with a wonderful family by myself.”

“I really liked the family I stayed with, they were so friendly and welcoming. My favourite trip was to Münster because we got to meet other people's partners and go shopping together. My partner, Anna, was so nice and comforting and I think we really became close friends. We both cried on Friday and I can't wait until March!”

“The German exchange was an amazing experience as I got to understand the German culture as well as the people. I made many new friends as well as staying with a great family. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am so grateful that I got this as I had a fantastic time. Thank you!”

**An account of the German Exchange written by Cora Jamieson (Year 9) and Myyar Saadah (Year 10)**

**Friday 6 – Friday 13 October 2017**

On Friday we arrived in Lippstadt. We were very tired but excited to meet our partners.

We spent the weekend with our partners, getting to know them and their families. I (Cora) was lucky enough to go to Cologne to visit the Chocolate Museum and the padlock bridge, where lovers attach a mini padlock to the bridge and throw the key into the river.

On Monday we went to Gymnasium Schloss Overhagen, which is the school our partners go to. We went into school with them and experienced the German school system. In the afternoon we went into Lippstadt town centre and went shopping whilst doing a quiz.



On Tuesday we went to the British Army Barracks in Paderborn and to the Wewelsburg Castle - a former concentration camp. When we were in the army barracks we learnt how British troops train. In the Wewelsburg Castle, we learnt that it was an SS base during WW2 and that there was a concentration camp there too. It was a very interesting day and we learnt a lot about German history. It was also the day when 'Man's Not Hot' became our trip anthem.

On Wednesday we went to three different sites: Hermannsdenkmal, Adlerwarte Berlebeck and Externsteine. Hermannsdenkmal is a large monument in memory of Herman, the leader of a Germanic tribe that defeated the Romans in 9AD. We climbed up it and took photos. After that, we went to Adlerwarte Berlebeck and watched a falconry display. Finally, we went to Externsteine, which is the German equivalent to Stonehenge, climbed up it and took pictures.



On Thursday we went to Münster with our exchange partners on the train. In the morning we did a quiz and in the afternoon we went shopping. It was a lot of fun because we got to meet everyone's exchange partners and get to know them.

On Friday we left Germany and our exchange partners. Many people cried and we were all very sad to be leaving as many of us got very close to our partners.