

On 24th September we began our Exchange trip to Bottrop-Kirchellen, Germany. After months of emailing with our exchange students we were excited to finally meet them, and greet them as friends. After travelling all day we arrived in the afternoon and spent the rest of our day with our exchange families.

The next morning we accompanied our partners to the school, where we were shown the building and we could also visit some lessons like German, Physics, Religion or English. We could have a great view of the kind teachers, cool students and smart classes. After school we went to the Kletterpark, an adventure park, where we fought our fears together, trying to communicate in English when we actually thought we would die.

On Thursday we visited the beautiful city of Cologne, where we (obviously) did some shopping after the sightseeing tour in the city. We were lucky enough to visit the Cologne Cathedral at the time of pilgrimage, so we could enter a lot of previously closed parts of this beautiful church.

On Friday we went to Bottrop to do some sightseeing and to collect information for our projects about the city, and just to feel the atmosphere of an enchanting city like this. In the afternoon we visited the MoviePark, a funfair filled with roller coasters themed around films and series. In the evening most of us attended Jakob's, a German guy's birthday party, which was extremely fun.

The weekend was free for all of us, so we got to spend it with our exchange students and families. Some of us attended grill parties; others went for a short trip to the Netherlands (the border is only 30 minutes away!).

Then came Monday, and with Monday the end of our visit got closer. We began our week in school; we finished and presented our projects about Bottrop together. It was our last complete day there, and we were already sad to leave our German friends and the beautiful city. The afternoon was free, and then in the evening we went to our goodbye party at one of the German boys' beautiful country house. We were chatting, dancing and eating and we tried not to remind ourselves that the next day we should leave.

On Tuesday we had to get up early and finish packing because it was our last day. It wasn't easy to say goodbye, but everyone knew we would see each other soon, in the spring.

It was a wonderful week we spent together in Germany, and we're hoping the Germans will enjoy their trip just as much as we enjoyed ours.