

Newsletter – first meeting in Rees, Germany

14-20. February

First day (Monday 15th February) of the meeting in Rees, Germany

After traveling on Sunday, all the countries in the Project finally met up in Rees. Our students met their host families, and went to their homes in Rees for a good night's sleep.

The following day, we met up in school to go through with the first day of the project. The students were divided into mixed groups to get to know each other, and present their families and home city to one another.



In the second part of the day, the German teachers involved in the project, had arranged a field trip to learn more about an ancient, Roman settlement near Rees. We all went on an excursion to Xanten, where we visited an archaeological site where a rebuild of a Roman city was located near the river Rhine. There were bath houses, living quarters and a theatre, amongst other interesting remains of the city to be seen.

After the visit to the Roman archaeological park, we walked into the city centre of Xanten to eat lunch. Refreshed and a little warmer, the German students held presentations in different locations in Xanten, where they told us about the history and various buildings in the city.



Tuesday 16th February

The day was spent working at Gymnasium Aspel. The students had prepared a presentation about the history of their city. They had looked at different periods that were important for the city's history and focused on buildings, inhabitants, citizenship and safety/defence. Each country presented the history of their cities for the whole group. After these presentations, the students worked in groups and compared the five cities. They looked at inhabitants, buildings, citizenship and safety/defence. They made posters about this.



Wednesday 17th February

Visit to Münster. Today's trip was a visit to Münster, about an hour's coach ride from Rees. First stop was a photo outside the town hall, before we went inside to visit the Peace Hall where the Peace of Münster was written in 1648. We also visited the Stadtmuseum to learn about the Development of Münster from its early days as “Mimigernaford” through the medieval period and into the 20th Century. The City was destroyed during the Second World War and has been reconstructed in the same style.



Thursday 18th February

Visit to Essen. The day started on the bus with students singing happy birthday in six languages for Linda from the Netherlands whose birthday is today. First stop was the Ruhr Museum.

(From the webpage of the Zollverein, Ruhr Museum):

“The Ruhr Museum at the Zollverein Coal Mine is not an industrial museum, but a new type of regional museum. An integrative concept combines natural and cultural history, showcasing the entire history of the Ruhrgebiet, from the formation of coal 300 million years ago to the current structural change towards the Ruhr Metropolis.”



After this visit, we went to the University of Essen, where Prof Alexander Schmidt from the Department of City Planning and Urban Design gave a talk about the Development of the city of Essen, focusing on the period after 1945.

Friday 19th February

On Friday, the day was spent completing the presentations which were on display at the international party later in the evening. There was a lot of good work being done, and many interesting discussions amongst the students. The complete brochure consists of a comparison of the cities involved in the project, through Antiquity (Xanten and Ibiza), the Middle ages (all cities) and Modern times (all cities). The brochure compares citizenship, safety/defence, housing and inhabitants.



There was also a teacher's meeting during the day, where we discussed the work done during this week, and agreed upon the further work ahead.

In the evening, there was an international party, where all the participating countries in the project brought some food from their respective countries. Amongst others, the Mayor of Rees gave a speech to the participants of the project, and there was a lot of dancing and joyful mood throughout the evening. The Spanish students performed an amazing dance routine for us, and we enjoyed some excellent pieces of music from the German students. Later on, many new and good friends had to say their goodbyes.

We were all thankful for the time working together in the hospitality of the school in Rees. The week was successful, and a lot of good work was done by the teachers and students. We look forward to our next meeting in Ibiza, where we hope to continue the good collaboration between the countries and develop this project further.

For more information, and pictures from the project week, please visit:

<http://citiesinternationalproject.blogspot.no/>