

## Our trip to England in June 2016

On 6th June 2016 the pupils of class 9A, 9B, 9C and 9D of the Gymnasium Mainz-Oberstadt arrived in Dover by ferry. The beautiful weather surprised us, we had expected fog ☺. So we could finally admire the amazing cliffs of Dover. From Dover our bus headed towards Hastings and we could enjoy the beautiful countryside. As we had expected, we saw herds of sheep chilling on the green meadows along the route. Perfectly in time we arrived in Hastings and very excitedly met our host families.

The next day we were picked up by our bus and had a lovely time in the old and new town of Hastings. In the morning we did a Hastings rally. In the afternoon we met near the little boating lake in a public house to enjoy a typical English teatime event. Afterwards a friend and I went up on the rock of Hastings Castle. The view from there was just wonderful. After our visit of the battlefields in 1066 in Battle, we had dinner in our host families in the evening.

We spent our third day in London. There we participated in a sightseeing tour given by an English speaking guide. Among many other famous sights we saw Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge, the impressive Tower and St. Paul's Cathedral. Then it was time for a little break before we went to the famous Globe Theatre where we joined quite a funny workshop about Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet". In the evening we drove back to our host families.

The fourth day was very pleasing. On the way to Brighton we had a marvelous stopover in Eastbourne, at Beachy Head. There we had a delightful two hours walk along the famous cliffs with a fantastic view across the sea and the landscape. Midday we arrived in Brighton, where we were allowed to explore the city attractions in our groups. Lying on the beach there later and enjoying the sun was so wonderful.

Sadly the last day of our stay in England came up: Friday. In the morning we drove to Greenwich near London where we went by tube to Westminster Bridge and took a ride on the London Eye. Oh, what a view! And now we could finally go on our individually planned visits of special sights in London by ourselves. I have to tell you I do love Hyde-Park. It's just lovely!!!

Sadly we had to head back to Greenwich late in the evening where our bus driver was waiting for us and took us safely back to Dover where we crossed the Channel again, but this time in the middle of the night! We arrived back in Mainz early next morning, tired but happy that we had had such a wonderful time in England.

Our group of students says a big thank you to Mrs Willenbacher not only for the planning but also for the performance of such an amazing trip and above all, for the awesome experiences we could make in England before the BREXIT.

I am so glad that I signed up for that trip!

Benedikt Ling, 9c