

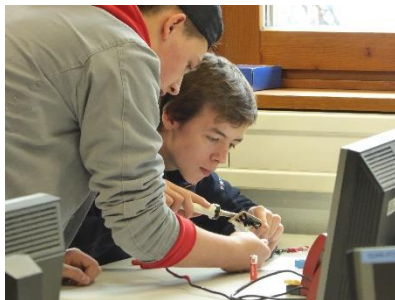
Erasmus+ Fair Trade

Austria, January 2018

In January 2018 two members of staff and five students made the journey from Peterborough, England to Klagenfurt, Austria for the penultimate stage of the Erasmus+ Fair Trade project.

After a very early start and a long, but comfortable journey, the English team were the first to arrive in Klagenfurt where the host families were waiting to welcome the students.

Throughout the following day, the remaining partner schools arrived from Italy, Germany, Denmark and Slovakia while the English group enjoyed some free time with their host families.



On the morning of day one, the project teams met at HTL Mossingerstrasse where we received a warm welcome from the Headteacher before watching a presentation from the Austrian students. Following this, the project group received a tour of the technical college before participating in a workshop to build a circuit board for a small light-up device.

After lunch in the college, the students were divided into mixed nationality groups to complete the Klagenfurt rally, a friendly competition to discover places of interest in and around the town in which we were based. Well down to Will and his team for winning the challenge!



Day two saw us heading back to HTL Mossingerstrasse for workshops with Climate Alliance Austria and fair-trade producers, Welt Laden. It was fascinating to receive a small insight into the damage we are doing to our planet and how the advancement in technology is now enabling us to see this for ourselves through satellite imagery.

Following lunch in the college, the project group boarded the coach for a tour of the local churches, monasteries and castles, including Maria Saal, facing the mountains and Maria Loretto, over-looking Lake Worthersee. The lake setting provided the perfect opportunity for our second video diary.



On day three we travelled to Graz, the second largest city on Austria and a popular university destination. The journey across the Austrian countryside gave us our first glimpse of the snow-covered hills, something we had all been longing for.

Upon arriving in Graz we received a very entertaining tour from our guest tour guide, who talked us through the history of the city and the more recent architectural anomalies, including the 5m Euro tourist attraction, known as Mur Island, that is now solely used as a bridge!

The bus tour was followed by a short tour on-foot, which took us to the foot of Schlossberg (Castle Rock), where we boarded the funicular to explore the clock and bell towers that escaped demolition at the hands of the French during the siege.

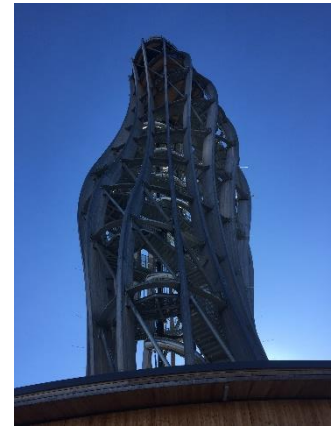
An afternoon of free time gave the students the opportunity to explore this fascinating city for themselves and allowed the teachers time to find the enormous fair-trade store in the city centre.



Day four took us away from Klagenfurt again, for a day in the beautiful town of Friesach. The programme for the day was a tour of the chocolate factory and time to explore Petersburg Castle. What we didn't expect was the thick layer of freshly snowed and the beautiful views across the mountainous countryside. The time spent in Friesach was a pure delight, one that our students will not forget in a hurry.



The fun didn't end there.....after the snowball fights, snow angels and a multitude of photographs the five very wet and cold English students joined the others on the coach to head for Pyramidenkogel, the tallest viewing tower in Europe which is situated on the top of a large hill providing panoramic views of Lake Worthersee and the surrounding mountains.



After climbing the 400 steps to the top, we were standing 851 metres high, in complete amazement at our surroundings. The skies had cleared, providing a bright blue contrast to the snow covered mountains and lake below. After more photographs, another video diary and a good look around the students made their way down to the slide.....yes, a 120 metre slide that takes you down to the foot of the tower in just 20 seconds. All five students rose to the challenge and they didn't regret it. This had been a day of fun, games and adrenaline.



As our final day arrived, we made our way to Minimundus. A park displaying scaled down models of famous landmarks from around the world. The students were given time explore the exhibits, before making their way inside to enjoy the interactive displays, including the Mini Cooper simulator, which enabled to the students to 'drive' around Minimundus and the 4D cinema, which took us on a run-away Tuk-Tuk ride along the Great Wall of China.

We had just enough time for another video diary before heading back to HTL Mossingerstrasse for their open day.

Back at the college, the students were able to explore the wide range of project work on display and experience the amazing work that is taking place in our partner school.

We cannot thank the host families, HTL and our host teachers Elisabeth and Elke enough. We had an amazing week and really do believe that we have experienced the real Austria both culturally and educationally.

