



A Welcome from Mr Haider



Our first day started at 9 o'clock in the conference room in the St. Bonaventura Gymnasium in Dillingen. We met all of the exchange students from Poland and England for the first time as a complete group; we were all very excited to meet each other.

At first Mr Haider, the Principal, introduced himself and welcomed us all to Dillingen, he gave us information about the school and the city and talked about Polish, British and German politics. He talked to us about unity between all nations and how we should behave in this situation. Mr Haider explained that each country has different allegiances and issues to deal with, but even in times in hardship we should stay together as one. He also described the aims of the Erasmus project, how important it is for young people to get new experiences and to learn something about other cultures. He explained the importance of cohesion in keeping peace in Europe. He told us that the future of the EU depends on young people.

At the end of his speech he made it clear how pleased he was that all of us got together and he wished us a successful visit.



Scavenger Hunt around Dillingen

Following our welcome from the Principal we were placed in groups comprising of English, Polish and German students. Our groups were given colours and we were all given a booklet with tasks in it. We would find answers to these questions all around the town.

We left the school and set off to explore Dillingen. The task booklet took us to fifteen different places for example: Kneippstation, Schloss (Castle), Bridge and Tower.

The highlight was walking through the cold river water, as it is believed to have medicinal values.



We gained a very good impression of the small town. It has lovely traditional buildings, an impressive church and a Bavarian castle. The weather was good to us and it did not rain. As well as learning about the town we also got to know each other better.

All teams completed the tasks and were rewarded with prizes when we returned to the school.

The Mayor

Monday, September 24th

After the city tour, we walked to the city hall. At 12:00 we came into a room with lots of tables and drinks. We were then greeted by the mayor, who started off his speech by telling us that 1-2% of people are currently unemployed. In fact, Dillingen has the lowest unemployment rate in Bavaria. Most people in the region work at Siemens. Around 12.000 dishwashers are shipped out of Bavaria every day, however, they are all different makes.

2 famous people have lived in Bavaria, or more specifically in Dillingen. The first was Wilhelm Bauer, who invented submarines and the other one was Sebastian Kneipp, who was famous for finding out that it is good for your health if you walk through cold water.

The mayor also told us that the infrastructure of Dillingen and around is very good as they have many schools for a variety of people such as disabled people, teachers and more. It was also mentioned that now is a good time for Europe in general, as there is peace, but it is not perfect yet. It is a hard time for Dillingen and its education as they need more qualified people to keep the education going. Last of all, we took a group picture outside of the city hall. We were told that we'd all be welcome again.

Our Augsburg trip - cold but cool



Our day started at 7.55 a.m. in the aula, where we met and then we went with Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Fields, Mrs. Brons , Mrs. Sinkiewicz, Mr. Schuster and Mr. Chetwynd to the bus station to start our fantastic trip to Augsburg. We were very excited, most of all the English and Polish people, because it was the first excursion to Augsburg for them. After a short ride of about one hour, we arrived in the city and walked to the Rathausplatz. Here we would meet the Guide, who showed us the sights of Augsburg. Unfortunately, we were half an hour early. We spent our time dancing while some teachers got a coffee or we tried to play the demolished piano standing on the square.

The pianos are scattered around Augsburg, the instruments are an art project which allows people to express themselves freely. The pianos are colourful and painted brightly to attract people to come and play their music.

At 10 a.m. our guides arrived, we were divided into groups; one English and one Polish group, and the tour began.

First we were in the Golden Hall where important receptions are held in Augsburg, significant speeches are given and Mozart concerts are also played there, as Augsburg is the German city of Mozart, which can be seen by the presence of statues of Mozart, a cigarette shop, the birthplace of his grandfather and also of his father.

In the Golden Hall, 2.6 kg of gold leaf covered 552 square meters of the building. The ceiling and the side walls were artistically decorated, this is the most beautiful room of Augsburg.

The Weberhaus, located in Moritzplatz, impressed us with its colourful façade and beautiful frescoes. From 1389-1548 it was the seat of Augsburg Weaving Guild; it has been rebuilt twice and has recently reconstructed following a major fire.

We then went to the Frauengarten. It is located west of the Fugger Houses, which have a large courtyard, which was beautiful and had fabulous acoustics. We then moved towards the climax of our tour.

The last thing we saw on our tour through Augsburg was the Fuggerei. It is a place for poor people who need help to afford a safe place to live. The ground rent today, still remains at only 88 Cent per year! In the middle-ages this would have been 1 Gulden. The price is very low, because the rich Fuggers built it in 1521 to help the poor. To live here you have to pray three times every day for the founder Jakob Fugger and the whole Fugger family for their services to them. Another fact about this place is that even Mozart's great grandfather lived here in one of the 140 apartments; he was a bricklayer not a musician.

At first we had to pass the gateway of the Fuggerei, because it is like a little village in Augsburg. All of the 67 buildings were coloured in yellow and have small doorways. The flooring was bumpy, because they couldn't build it all flat. Our guide showed us two different kinds of flats, one modern and one which looked like it was in the middle-ages..

We also noticed that all the doorbells looked different, so our guide told us that the people in those times did not always have a light so they invented a system of different weights so that a person could feel their way home in the dark.

After we got all that information from our tour guide, we left the oldest social settlement in the world and ended our tour through Augsburg.

After the end of the tour at 12:30 we had some free time. A few people went to shopping whilst some others searched for something to eat and drink. At 13:45 we met at the town hall and went singing and dancing back to our bus.

We were very happy as we had got to know our friends better.

An afternoon in Taxispark

On Tuesday afternoon we returned from our visit to Augsburg at 3pm and the rest of the day was ours.

A large group of the students: four Polish, three English and seven German students went to Taxispark together. We were there for three hours. We listened to music and started to teach each other dances from our own countries.

We learned two Polish dances, a traditional Polish dance and another one called Polonez.

After that we learned three dances that the German students learnt in lesson called freestyle, Cha Cha Cha and a slow Walz. While we were doing this we were learning more about each other and the cultures as well as having a lot of fun.

We struggled a bit with communication at first but soon we found ways to communicate with each other so we could all join in.

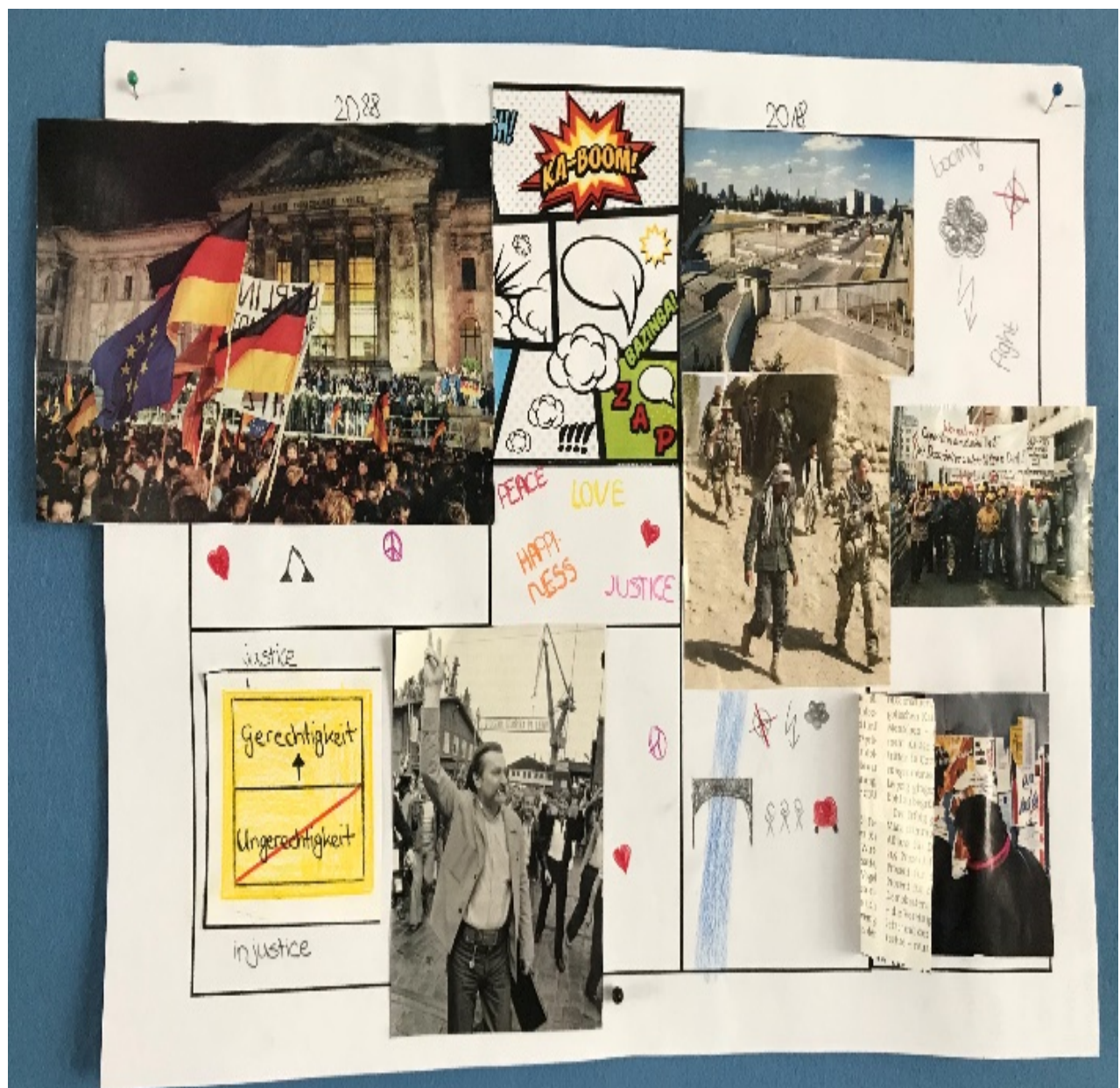
For those three hours we talked, danced and laughed. We all went home around 6 p.m. It was a sunny afternoon however it had started to get cold, we hadn't noticed as we were all dancing which made us very warm. We created many happy memories.

Our European Future: Creating a collage.

We started at 7.55a.m. (very early for the English students) we had a workshop with the topic 'Illustrating Europe's future'. We had to think about our future in the EU. First we were given questions to help us e.g. 'In what type of society do you want to live?' 'What values should lead the way?' 'What should be forbidden and what should be allowed?'.

We worked in mixed groups, this allowed us to discuss our different understanding and experiences. We then created our collages.

The first collage displays a focus on the values that we believe we should share with others. Those values were justice, love, patience and peace.

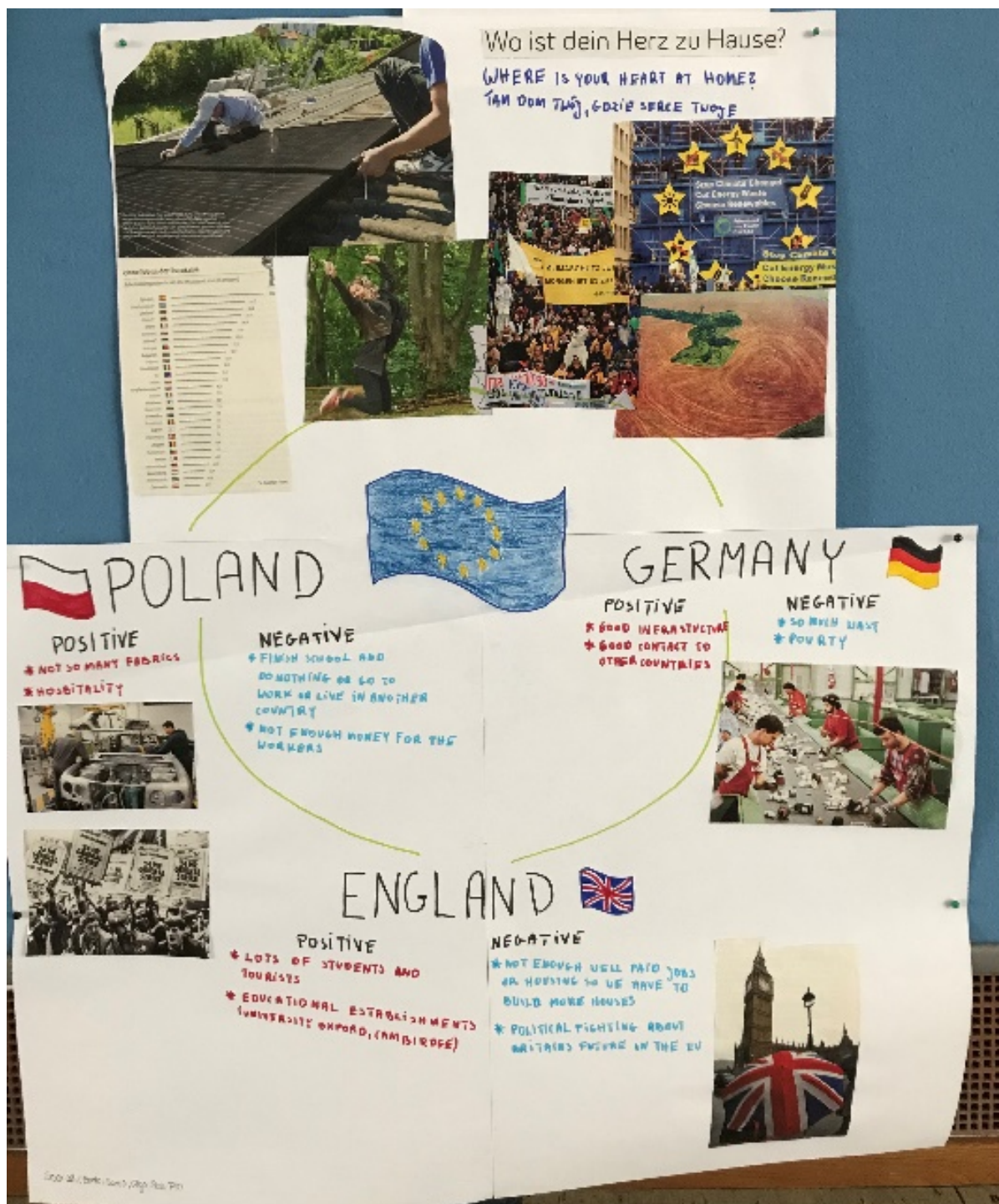


The second collage shows the future which that group hoped for and the future they never wish to see. The good future used images of leaders uniting; this shows an acceptance of different races. The bad future sheet held examples of racism, war, illness and death.



The third collage represents the positives and negatives of living in the countries that our Erasmus group came from. It shows the good things about living in Germany, England and Poland. Also focusing upon what they believed should be improved in each country to improve their future.

This group discussed the importance of having a sense of belonging and how much their home countries meant to each of them.



The fourth collage shows the European nations arguing with in the European Union. This group also focused upon the terrible effect that humans have on the environment.

2018

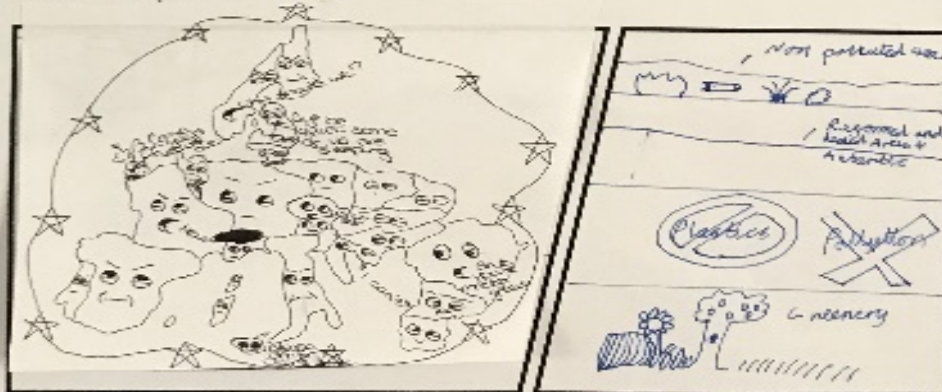
before

... extermination from the nature

... full streets (cars, smoke)



2088 after - Nature



Before	Negatives	
After		
Human for humans		

Left Page:

- Photo: European Union flag
Caption: *better cooperation*
- Photo: A child at a market stall
Caption: *no discrimination of socially different classes*
- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *better pay for products produced abroad*
- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *better restment planning*
- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *participating for every child to go school*
- Photo: A piece of meat with a price tag of 0.66
Caption: *higher price for meat and better treatment of the animals*

Right Page:

- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *good future for every child*
- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *less plastic waste in the sea*
- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *every nation has to be accepted*
- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *less right-wing populist parties*
- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *more projects like Erasmus*
- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *Christoph Meier, Bundesrat und SPD-Mitglied*
- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *Schwaben stärken Heimat schützen!*
- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *LISTEN PLATZ 5*
- Photo: A child in a classroom
Caption: *AFL*



The final collage shows a desire for a stronger sense of community within the EU.



This session was a brilliant opportunity to explore issues the students thought were important to them. As we were working in mixed groups it allowed us to meet and get to know other students we had not spoken to before.

Maths-Workshop

One of the aims of the project is to incorporate mathematics into our experience. We were asked to resolve some problems with a focus on a Zoo.

At first the teachers gave us a worksheet with a very difficult to equation which involved function mathematics, this was used to create a graph to enable us to interpret data. Not everybody understood it but the older German students helped the other people in their groups. Once this graph was drawn we could answer the questions we had been given:

How many people visit the zoo?

When the kiosks and restaurants need to be open?

How many seats are necessary for the show?

The second activity involved solving a problem. The problem we were given is said to have been made up by Albert Einstein and can't be solved by 98% of people.

Three groups out of the six managed it. A special mention goes to Miss Bronz, Mrs Fields and Mr Chetwynd who solved the problem first. This is a surprise as they are English teachers. They were first to conclude that the zebra eats the apple.

All of the teams then had to answer some crazy questions. For example we were asked; 'How many seconds does a fish (the black Marlin) need to swim 100 metres?' 'Would you have known that it was only 3 seconds?' Also 'How many stars can you see in the night around the world?' The answer is 6000 stars.

The maths lesson was very interesting, informative and funny.

An afternoon at the bowling alley

After our choir and orchestra practice on the 26th of September 2018 ,we (eight Polish, four English and twelve German students) went to the bowling alley at the Dillinger Hof. On the way we stopped in the middle of the street and started to dance freestyle.

At the bowling alley we rented four alleys for 2 hours and split the price, there were no arguments!When we first arrived we were in our separate groups, but soon we all integrated again. We had a lot of fun together.

The bowling alley was in the basement of a local hotel and restaurant. The type of bowls we used were a more traditional size and the whole point of this activity was to socialise with each other, rather than to win; we played for fun!

After this the students that were not at the Taxispark were taught the freestyle dance. More and more of us join in as our confidence has grown and this is normal for us now.

The polish students also taught us a new game similar to tag in which a person would tag another who would then have to tag another person etc. Each person could protect themselves by creating a the shape of a house roof above their head. The last person remaining would be laughed at and called a 'skisles`which means loser in Polish. We have not stopped playing this since.

Workshops on Thursday

The teachers of our workshops today were Mrs. Gärtner and Mr. Eisenhoffer. At first each group had to choose a topic, we were in the same groups as yesterday. The 5 topics were stereotypes, cartoons, cultural shock, proverbs and the cultural iceberg.

The groups who chose stereotypes as their topic were supposed to think about typical English, Polish and German stereotypes. After that they had to draw 4 pictures about them, but not just about the stereotypes of the three countries also one about Europe.

Another group figured out all the differences between England, Poland and Germany, because their topic was cultural shock. They also tried to give us some tips so we don't get a shock when we visit other countries. To avoid getting a shock you should familiarize yourself with that country.

Three of our groups choose cartoons as their topic. They were given a worksheet with 8 cartoons on it and had to identify their message on the EU. At least they also had to draw their own cartoon with one of the topics on the worksheet.

1. They show typical things of the country; things people think about the country. But often they're not true or only partially.

They give an impression of people who live in other countries and show parts of their lifestyle of many of them. But it's dangerous because it's not true for everyone in this country.

2. England/Britain: always drink tea, wealthy, polite, always raining, saying sorry a lot, old guy with tea and a bowler hat, they often wear a suit

Germany: drink a lot of beer, good cars, modern, always on time, wear leather pants, football fans, Oktoberfest, sausage

Poland: Really short hair, thieves, wodka, cigarettes, fake branded clothing, loud, sandals with socks

Yes, because everybody have the same prejudices.

Often the neighboring countries have similar stereotypes, because some of their cultures are the same (Netherlands, Belgium). But some countries have their own stereotype, for example USA.

Juggling – Workshop

The second workshop we had on Friday was juggling with Mrs Weh and Mrs Schuh. The teachers split us into two groups. One group made their own juggling balls: a balloon over a tennis ball, full of rice. The others learnt, step by step, how to juggle with scarves. At the first station we started with one scarf, then we had two and in the end we juggled with three scarves with balls inside. As you see, every station got more difficult. We had to think about more as it got harder. In addition, we had to simultaneously throw the scarves. After the first team finished their balls, we switched the groups. Everybody enjoyed this workshop, because it was a lot of fun, action and everyone getting involved. Many of us want to do it again.



Travel

All the experience and feelings the students from England and Poland

The English left for Birmingham airport at 2:30 p.m, we travelled by bus. The journey took 1 hour 30 minutes however we were still extremely excited. A couple of us got stopped by the security which was quite funny but we had to wait for a minute or so. We made it through security quite easily and then waited for the plane; once we got on the plane we sat and took off. Our teacher MR. Chetwynd did not enjoy the bumpy flight. We arrived in Stuttgart at 9:00 p.m to a lot of rain. It managed to clear up and we collected our luggage or most of us...We all had our luggage except MRS. Fields, her suitcase had vanished. We were all very happy to finally be in Germany and then made our way to our host families by taxi. Once we arrived in Dillingen, we met our German hosts. They were very welcoming and we were very happy to be there, even though we got there at 11:00 p.m!

First, we drove from Elblag to Gdansk airport. We flew from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The flight was very scary and stressful. Our friend Zbyszek lost his jacket. We went to the shops. We met a Polish man on the train At 2 p.m. we arrived at the train station in Dillingen The journey was really exhausting but funny. We went to our host families and got on well.