ST. FLANNAN'S COLLEGE

COLÁISTE FHLANNÁIN

ERASMUS+

Erasmus+ Trip to Langenfeld

PARTNER SCHOOL

Bettine-von-Arnim, Langenfeld

2nd Year Students Enjoy an Unforgettable Trip to Germany

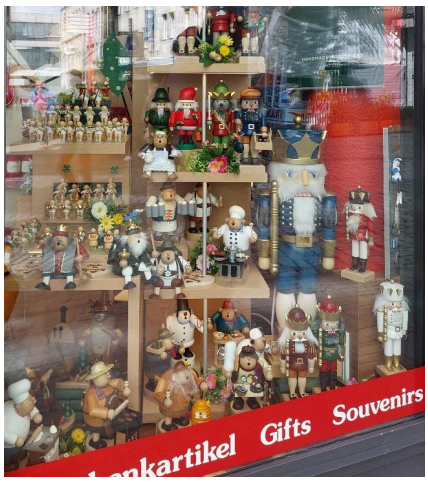
This year's first ever Erasmus+ trip to Germany for 2nd Year students was a fantastic experience that combined culture, language, friendship, and fun. Over the course of several action-packed days, students had the opportunity to practise their German, explore some of Germany's most famous attractions, and build lasting connections with students from our partner school.

Discovering Cologne

Our trip began with a guided tour of the beautiful city of Cologne. Students were impressed by the stunning Cologne Cathedral, one of Germany's most iconic landmarks. As we walked through the historic streets, students were able to soak up the atmosphere of this vibrant city and use their German in real-life situations, whether ordering snacks, asking for directions, or shopping for souvenirs.







A particular highlight was our visit to the Chocolate Museum Cologne. Here, students learned about the history of chocolate production, from cocoa bean to delicious finished product. Of course, the free samples were a big hit!







Meeting Our Partner School

One of the most valuable parts of the trip was our visit to our German partner school, Bettine-von-Arnim in Langenfeld, Ennis Twin Town. Our students were warmly welcomed by their German hosts and took part in a range of activities aimed at helping them to get to know one another. Although there were some initial nerves, activities such as speed-dating and discussions on the theme of 'a day in my life' quickly helped conversations to flow and students soon started to forge connections. Our students were delighted to discover how much German they were able to use in real-life situations. Lunch at the school gave everyone a chance to chat informally and gain an insight into everyday school life in Germany.

Plans are underway to strengthen these initial bonds, including the exchange of local flower seeds and the creation of "partnership gardens" at both schools. Return visits are also being discussed, with the possibility of welcoming our German partners to Ireland as early as this autumn.

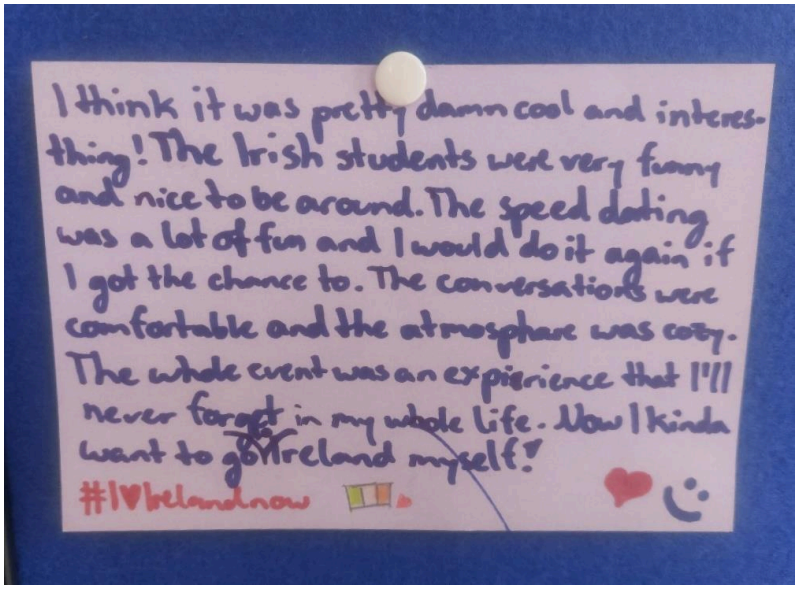
Also in attendance were representatives of the Langenfeld Twinning Committee, whose support was instrumental in organising our educational trip, along with the Mayor of Langenfeld, Gerold Wenzens. In his welcome address, Mayor Wenzens emphasised the significance of the twinning partnership, particularly for young people, and paid tribute to the commitment and hard work of the teachers involved.






11




I think it was pretty damn cool and interesting! The Irish students were very funny and nice to be around. The speed dating was a lot of fun and I would do it again if I got the chance to. The conversations were comfortable and the atmosphere was cozy. The whole event was an expierience that I'll never forget in my whole life. Now I kinda want to go Ireland myself!
#IVbelandnow



A Journey into Prehistory

We also visited the fascinating Neanderthal Museum, where students explored the story of human evolution. The interactive exhibits were both educational and engaging, helping us better understand the lives of our prehistoric ancestors.





Thrills at Phantasialand

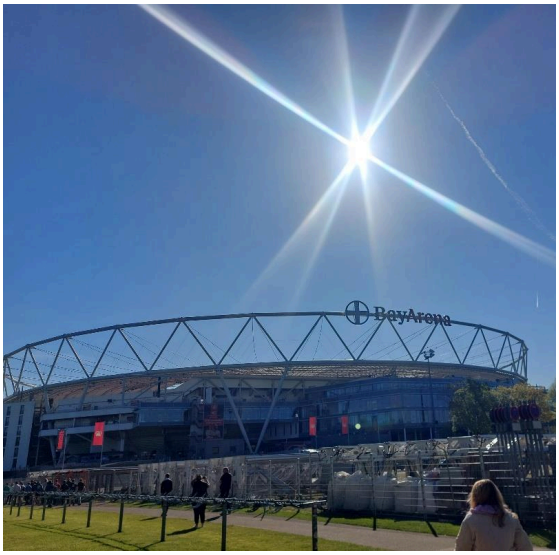
No school trip would be complete without some excitement, and our day at Phantasialand certainly delivered! From adrenaline-pumping roller coasters to spectacular themed areas, there was something for everyone. It was a day filled with laughter, thrills, and unforgettable memories.





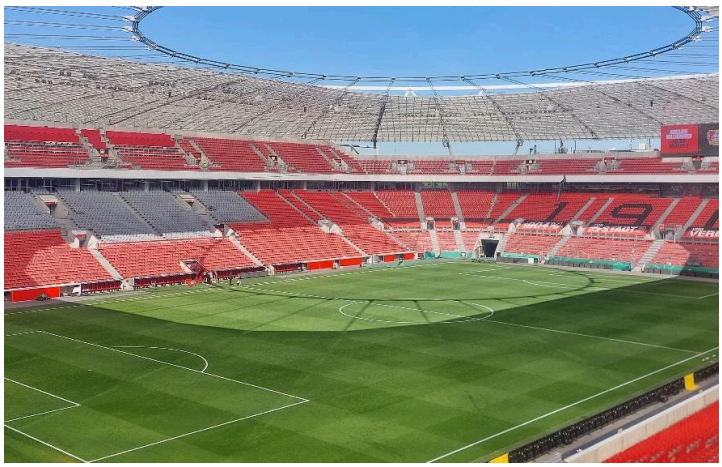
Football and Water-skiing

Sports fans were especially excited by our tour of the Bay Arena, home of Bayer 04 Leverkusen. Students explored behind the scenes, visiting the dressing rooms, players' tunnel, and the pitch.









Another major highlight was our afternoon in Wasserski Langenfeld, Europe's largest water-skiing park, where students tried water-skiing. For many, it was their first time on the water, and there were plenty of spectacular falls as well as impressive successes! Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a delicious picnic kindly organised by the Langenfeld-Ennis twinning committee.





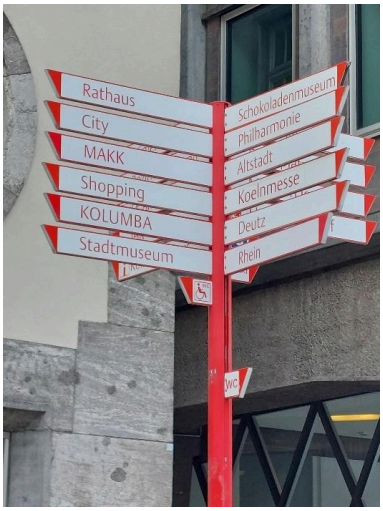


Experiencing German Culture

Throughout the trip, students were encouraged to immerse themselves in German culture. They sampled traditional foods, browsed local shops, and experienced daily life in Germany first-hand. Most importantly, they gained confidence in speaking German and realised how rewarding it is to communicate in another language.









Memories to Last a Lifetime

Our trip to Germany was much more than a typical school tour. It offered students a valuable opportunity to learn beyond the classroom, experience another culture, and form lasting international friendships. They returned home with greater confidence in their language abilities, unforgettable memories, and a greater appreciation of the value of cultural exchange.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our teachers, our partner school, and, above all, the twinning committees in both Ennis and Langenfeld for their generosity, support, and collaboration in making this experience possible.

We are already looking forward to the next visit.