DIARY

THE UNFORGETTABLE SCHOOL TRIP TO ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

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Our school trip to Scotland was scheduled for the spring break and we couldn't wait to start the tour. Finally the big day has arrived and about 65 students 6 teachers 2 bus drivers and a tour guide gathered at noon on Saturday, March 19 to begin an unforgettable journey.

We travelled through Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. After a whole day spent on the bus we had finally arrived to Amsterdam and had a chance to explore the city which's rich in touristic sights. From the magnificent museums to cobbled streets and, of course, the city's world-famous canal houses and waterways. There are many things to see and do in **Amsterdam**. The Van Gogh Museum was a unique and inspirational experience while floating down Amsterdam’s canals was a memorable way to discover the city’s sights and attractions. No doubt that if you are in Amsterdam, you want a photo in front of the iconic ‘I Amsterdam ‘letters on Museum Square.

In the evening we continued our trip and took a **ferry** from Amsterdam to **Newcastle**. Although overnight crossing from Amsterdam to Newcastle is a perfect way to access Scotland from mainland Europe saving a long drive, but the idea of sleeping below sea level was a bit frightening for some of us.

The first thing to see in Scotland was **Hadrian's Wall**, which was built to separate Romans from Barbarians. Then we travelled to a village called **Gretna Green**, where we visited the historic Gretna Green Famous Blacksmiths Shop where runaway couples have come to marry since 1754.

In the afternoon we occupied our mobile homes. There were six students and a teacher in a 'home'. We were more than happy to eat real meal and sleep in comfortable beds.

On Tuesday we discovered the Castle of **Edinburgh** situated beautifully on the top of a hill overlooking the city. It can be seen from afar. Here we had a chance to see the firing of the famous One o'clock gun and had the pleasure of having a spectacular view of the city. During our free time we wandered around the amazing Old Town popping into shops and watching talented street performers.

On Wednesday we travelled to **Glasgow** and visited the Museum of Transport, climbed up to the very top of the castle to admire the view of the town and peeked into the beautiful Glasgow Cathedral. When we got some free time half of the group decided to go into Primark.

We also saw the romantic ruins of a castle at the rugged coastline. We climbed the slippery cliffs while almost falling into the sea but the view was worth the effort. It was gorgeous.

On Thursday we travelled to **Ayrs,** where we walked down to the coast and had a walk in the village. While down on the coast, we got to see an amazing view of the sea and the surrounding cliffs. We even got to see a shopping cart that has been dug into the sand by the sea. We tried to pull it out, but had no luck. Later on we went back into the village, and visited some really nice shops. After that we visited Robert Burns (the famous poet of Scotland) Birthplace Museum located in the village of **Alloway**. However, the **Culzean Castle** on the Ayrs coast with its dramatic clifftop settings and beautiful surroundings was one of our favourite historic attractions in Scotland. It is the former home of the Marquess of Ailsa, the chief of Clan Kennedy .It is an amazing and elegant 18th-century Scottish castle with many treasure-filled rooms that is worth making the time to discover thoroughly.

Unfortunately, on Friday we had to leave our mobile homes and headed to the South. On our way to England we visited one of the Lake District's lakes. It was beautiful. We spent our last night in a hotel at the outskirts of London. Although we all were very excited and eager to see the attractions of **London** we were a bit sad as well since that was our last day in the UK.

On Saturday morning we discovered London. We saw The Houses of Parliament, took pictures of the Big Ben, the Victoria Tower and the Westminster Abbey. We walked past the Downing Street and the Banqueting House. We walked through the Chinese quarter, the Piccadilly square and the Convent Garden. Since we had lots of free time till our afternoon programmes we had a chance to look around a bit so we went along the streets and peeked into every shop.

In the afternoon we also visited Trafalgar Square and walked through the Saint James Park to Buckhingam Palace where we saw one of the most famous spectacles in London that is the Changing of the Guard. We also saw the Old Admiralty Building.

We believe it was an exceptional journey from which we returned home with marvellous memories. We would like to express our special thanks to Teacher Széllné Hajdú Indira for the exceptional organization. We do hope that next year we also have a chance to visit to the U.K.

 