



**Class 8e:**  
**Hastings Diary 2018**



### **Day 1: The trip to and our arrival in Hastings**

Eager and full of excitement, our class met at the Vischering Castle parking lot, ready to start our adventure in England. After a short and not very emotional goodbye to our parents and a difficult process of lifting the heavy luggage into the bus, we finally drove off watched by the Latin and French classes impatiently waiting for their busses to arrive too.

Since our class seems to not only forget homework and class projects, but also important dates, many of them did not remember to congratulate a student on her birthday. She was unhappy, but soon cheered up after having the whole bus sing her a birthday song, thanks to Mrs. Düstersiek's announcement through the bus microphone. To spend our time on the bus as cheerfully as possible, we talked, ate a lot and sang songs! The all-time favorites included "Monsta", "Willst du" and "Country roads". Because of his observant and responsible, although sometimes even assertive driving, the bus driver needed breaks to relax. These were also very necessary for the students and teachers since a road trip with our class can be extremely exhausting and stressful. When we finally arrived on the ferry, everyone was happy to stretch their legs.

The voyage on the ferry took about two hours, which most students, as well as the teachers, spent looking out at the ocean, eating their lunches and trying to connect to the Wi-Fi on board, which was not as easy as it may sound. While minding our own business, one of our classmates overheard a couple of German students from another town gossiping about us. Determined and angry, a girl from our class decided to defend our honor and talk to them. One of the gossipers, not expecting this, was shocked and said some nasty things her friends soon apologized for.

After another three hours on the bus, we finally arrived at the meeting point where we would meet to be picked up on the following days as well. The host families had to be called because the bus arrived half an hour earlier than planned. Some changes had been made so that everyone could be set up with a nice and matching family. We were taken to their homes and introduced to the families we would live with for the following days. After a delicious dinner, we went to sleep, excited to explore England and all its beautiful sights and activities, as well as the big shopping malls!

### **Day 2: Hastings**

#### **A Guided Walk In Hastings**

Today we started at the Hastings Pier. After spending some time at the beach, we were split into two different groups with one guide each.

During our rather windy walk, we learnt something about the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and that there was a lot of smuggling during that period, because of the short distance to France.





Later we made our way into the city and were told that the Queen herself had visited Hastings a few years before.

In the city centre there were a few shops and a rather small shopping centre.

However, we didn't spend too much time in the city because we went to the castle, which is the oldest Norman castle in all of England.

The walk was long since we had to go up the rather steep West Hill. On our way, we saw an old letter box and the guide told us how the post in England worked.

Soon after

that we went through small alleys in the Old Town, such as Queen's Centre.

As we walked through the city, we found out that the smallest house there used to be a cheese factory, near the coast. The building was so tiny that a man who had died in there couldn't be carried out through the door in the coffin.

At the end we enjoyed some free time and met at the beach again. All in all, it was a nice tour. Even though we had to walk a lot, it was interesting.



### The Cliff Walk



We started our walk at 11:22 am and took the East Hill Lift up to the cliffs.

On top of the cliffs there was a huge lawn from which the view over Hastings was very beautiful.

After that we walked into a small forest and there were many paths to continue our walk in different ways. Julius was



challenged to continue the walk without his shoes on and he stepped into many thorns. After we left the forest we came back to the huge lawn and had a break. In this break Ms. Falk had the idea to play a quick reaction game which was new to us. Then we walked back to the lift and Mrs. Düstersiek treated us all to some ice cream.

Later we took the lift down to the city and ate Fish'n Chips on the beach, eagerly watched by lots of seagulls which wanted our meal. After that we went to the Shipwreck Museum.



## The Shipwreck Museum

After our cliff walk, we had a guided tour through the past of ship accidents in the Shipwreck Museum. In the museum we saw many historical objects, for example things that had been found in sunken ships such as coins, spoons and ceramic things. The only problem with those things is that they are often very much damaged.

But they had found a ship called Amsterdam, which is very well maintained:

- Name: Amsterdam
- type: merchant ship
- edification: 08.01.1749
- date of accident: 26.01.1749
- place of accident: English coast
- found: 1969



When we finished the guided tour, we had some free time in the museum. Some of us walked through the museum and looked at interesting objects which had been found along the English coast. But most people were sitting in the no longer functional cinema of the museum. The interesting thing about this room was that it had been transformed into another exhibition room.

## Day 3: London

### The Natural History Museum

On 4th July we went to the Natural History Museum, where we first established ground rules for our behaviour in the museum. Visiting the different sections and their themes (which were a lot), we learned much about the different former and current species of the British Isles, their colonies, and the rest of the world. We also found out about threats that these creatures have faced and are still facing. These threats have already caused some species to become extinct. One section was about the geological history of Earth and how it has affected evolution and the daily life of the human species, which was



made clear by an earthquake simulator. Dinosaurs have got their own section as well as the mammals. In the dinosaur section, many skeletons and the way the dinosaurs moved were shown.



### Westminster Walk

After the visit to the Natural History Museum we took the Tube to Leicester Square, where we first had a 45-minute lunch break during which we watched a lot of street artists. Then we walked along Piccadilly Circus, where we saw some colourful light advertisements.

Next we stopped at Trafalgar Square, where we learnt a bit about Nelson's Column.

After a short stop at Downing Street No. 10, the residence of the British Prime Minister, we continued along Whitehall to the Houses of Parliament, that is the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Unfortunately, we could not see Big Ben as it was being restored and hidden behind the scaffolding. We finished our tour at Westminster Abbey.



### **Sky Garden**



After the Westminster Walk, we went to Sky Garden, which is a platform in the very top of a skyscraper. The platform is on the 35<sup>th</sup> floor, so we got up there in an extremely fast elevator. There were many tropical plants and a cafeteria. From the platform we had a nice view over London, so we could see many famous sights like the London Eye, the Tower of London, the Millenium Bridge, Monument, etc. We were very impressed by the view.



### **The Tower of London**

On our way to the Dockland Light Railway, which would take us to Greenwich, we passed the Tower of London, which is a really famous sight, and everybody who is in London has to go there. Four boys of our class told us about the most important historical events which had taken place in the Tower of London. Today you can find the crown jewels there, but we didn't have enough time to marvel at them.

### **Greenwich**

Last but not least, we took the DLR to Greenwich, where we would find our coach. When we got out of the DLR we saw the wonderful Cutty Sark, which we already knew from our first English book in Year 5. Then we walked through Greenwich Park, which was really big, and crossed the Zero Meridian. We saw people playing the typically English sport cricket. After a fabulous day we reached our coach and were very tired.

## **Day 4: Dover and Canterbury**

### **Dover Castle**

On Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, we went to Dover at 7:30 am already. As soon as we arrived, we visited Dover Castle, where an underground hospital of the Allies is situated which had been planned to be used in World War II, but during the building of the hospital the war moved further towards the east, so the hospital was actually only used for injured soldiers, pilots etc. as a medical dressing station.



We were able to follow the story of a Mosquito pilot who had an injured leg and needed help. As we walked through the underground, we experienced the sounds, smells and the atmosphere of the former hospital, like energy problems, bomb alarms and the smell of the food. We were able to see the entrance, kitchen, bed rooms, bathroom and the operation theatre. Some of us were a bit shocked by all the impressions, we were confronted with.

After the tour, which had lasted only a little more than 20 minutes, we were separated into three groups with one teacher each. We saw the hugest Roman tower

north of the Alps, which was built over 2000 years ago. As soon as the French arrived in England in 1066, they constructed the castle in Dover, because it is the nearest point to continental Europe. It is made out of limestone from northern France, as are some other buildings in London (Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London) by the way. Mr McTague told some of us about his rather weird hobby, which is taking pictures of Chinese tourists posing for their selfies.

## Canterbury

In Canterbury we had a lunch break from 12:30 to 14:20, when most of us had the unique experience of going to an English supermarket. After that we had a guided tour through the historic town centre.



We looked at the cathedral, which is famous for the archbishop Thomas Beckett, who was murdered by king Henry II. After his death a shrine was placed in the cathedral and many pilgrims showed up there, which was the start of the tourism branch in Canterbury. But a few centuries later Henry VIII displaced the shrine and the corpse, so the pilgrims stopped coming to the cathedral and the town ended up in a bad economic situation. All in all, the day consisted of a lot of walking and finding out about historical events.



## Day 5: Back to Lüdinghausen

The trip back to Lüdinghausen was a troublesome journey: SOMEONE had left their ID in the host family, delaying our departure, and then another PERSON decided it was a good idea to eat a metric ton of Doritos and drink over 1 litre of Coke. (Surprise: The person threw up, but luckily into their own backpack!) The rest of the journey went rather smoothly. We listened to the same cool songs over and over again, like Monsta, Country Roads, Believer, FRIENDS, Dicke Lippen and so on...

Thanks to our bus driver we successfully avoided all traffic jams and arrived in LH at 20:10.