

## Our first trip to Nottingham, January 2014

Nottingham is a place most of you will relate to Robin Hood tales, but it actually has more in store than you may think.

We, a group of 18 GBG students from the 2nd semester, had the opportunity to take part in a school exchange with Bilborough College, Nottingham from the 20th to the 27th January. Bilborough College is a large sixth form college on the western outskirts of Nottingham, which offers an impressive range of subjects and courses for its students aged 16 to 19. Some of them are even interested in learning German ... After having exchanged some basic details about school, friends and hobbies by e-mail, we actually got to meet our exchange partners and their families on a sunny Monday in January and spent one day attending their classes at Bilborough College before we went "to work". For three days we all helped in different nursery or elementary schools, which made it possible for us to get a first-hand insight into the British educational system. The days flew by and everybody enjoyed interacting with the little kids as most of them were very excited about having some variation in their daily routines at school.

In the end we all left our work placements feeling very positive about having experienced different educational approaches and of course because we felt that we had a fair amount of opportunities to work on and to improve our language skills. It goes without saying that there was also enough time to explore the different sides of Nottingham and most free time activities were actually planned individually with our host families. Groups of German and English exchange students went ice skating or met at a restaurant in order to try local delicacies, such as fish and chips, which definitely has to be recommended.

On Saturday we then had the opportunity to visit and explore the lovely city of York and its impressive Minster. The small streets, the tea shops, interesting boutiques and restaurants enticing you with good old English charm had an inspiring effect on everybody, which left us in a great mood for our last day in Nottingham with our host families.

And we are now more than ready to welcome our English hosts and friends in a couple of weeks here in Lichtenrade at GBG when they are paying us their return visit!

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