

Newport, England

PERIOD: May 2019

HOSTING SCHOOL: Joyce Franklin Academy Newport, England

Description of the activity. Describe the content, methodology and the results of this activity.

- **Who were the participants in the activity (including local participants)?**
- **How was this activity related to or integrated with the normal activities?**

Participants: 14-15 years old, mixed boys and girls (11 each school), 2 German teachers, and various English teachers. The sports activities were related to PE lessons (2 English PE teachers involved) at school although the sports were atypical; the cultural activities were not typical might be considered similar to a typical school trip.

The week German students spent in England included sports and cultural visits. The methodology was for students from both schools to interact as much as possible and to reflect on gender inclusion of the different sports. The results were very positive as students worked well together, in pairs and teams, and gained an insight into sports which they knew little about, considering them thoughtfully and maturely. Students were encouraged to consider how they might improve the activities for future participants. A very positive attitude was noted among students and both English and German students also reflected on how gender inclusive sports were, which was thought provoking and involved some interesting debate.

ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED OUTSIDE THE HOSTING SCHOOL

Firstly, German students were welcomed in the English host families.

The next day they got to know the host school by participating tours, guided by their hosts. Afterwards, they answered the questionnaires, were informed about the rules of cricket by their hosts and they got to know how to play cricket and tried to play it themselves together in mixed groups with the English students.

One day students went to Cambridge where they received a guided tour throughout the city Centre. After lunch they went to see some of the famous museums the town offered.

One day the students and their teachers visited Saffron Walden. After getting to know the city an Orienteering activity for both English and Spanish students started. Mixed groups in which good teamworking was essential.

The students and their teachers also experienced a great day in London to see the capital of the United Kingdom. There they also had a guided City Walk and saw the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye and different museums.

The last day, German and English students were working on assignments in small mixed groups and in the end, all the students went to the airport and to say goodbye.

ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED INSIDE THE SCHOOL PREMISES:

The coordinator of the Project in England, Mr. Tim Rumsey, and the headteacher welcomed the participants and introduced the students to their hosting families.

Presentation by about the educational system in England for the German students.

Participation in English and PE lessons in the English school. There English and German students worked on assignments in small mixed groups. Evaluation took place.

How did the participation in this activity benefit the involved participants?

Participation in the activities was clearly beneficial to the students as they improved their understanding of cultural differences between the two countries. Whilst there were clearly cultural differences, the two countries had a lot more in common than differences. The team work and communication skills employed during sports and activities were good to see and the fact that the students had to think about sport (gender inclusivity) in a way they might not normally. This focus on gender inclusivity produced occasional differences of opinion between boys and girls which were debated in a mature fashion but the overall sense was that both boys and girls had a better idea about gender inclusivity as a result.

Indeed, a number of meaningful suggestions were made by students in the feedback session at the end of the week about how to make certain sports more accessible for all and thus more gender inclusive.

The English host families have warmly welcomed their young guests and generously dedicated their time and resources to them throughout the stay. Good relationships have been established.