

Short Mobility

Portugal April 2016



Monday 11th April

Arrival: We arrived late Monday evening and were welcomed by the Portuguese families waiting at the school. The students were reunited with their partners and met their host families. Then, they went to their host homes, got settled in and had an early night!



Tuesday 12th April

Day one: Getting to know the school

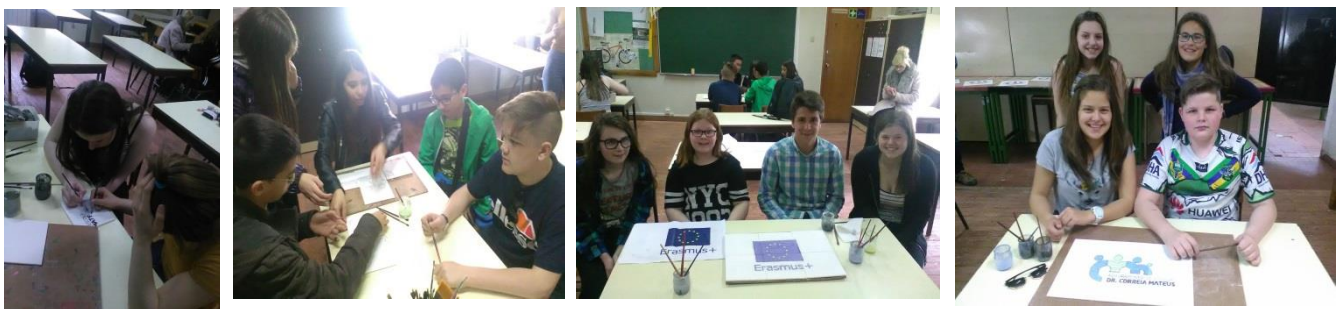


We were reunited in the morning and met the head teacher of the school. The students gave the head teacher and teachers involved with Erasmus typically British foods (shortbread and tea!) and Archie pens- to remember us by.



Then, we were split into two groups and were given a tour of the school. The students were interested in learning about the different projects available at the school, such as recycling old materials to create new materials to give to the community (soaps) and the gardening centre situated in the schoolyard, in which the Portuguese students planted fruit, vegetables and flowers. Lunch time was a culture shock for our lot! They were reluctant to try calamari and rice but, after some persuasion, gave it a go and began their alimentary experience abroad.

After lunch, they painted the ERASMUS+ logo and the school's logo onto tiles. Josh was a natural! He exclaimed that he was going to sell up shop in Hull and move to Portugal to paint tiles for a living.



The students then went back to their host families' houses and spent the evening bike riding, playing board games and trying new and traditional foods!

Wednesday 13th April

Day two: Orienteering at the beach

Students were split into groups consisting of a French student, an English student and two Portuguese students. They were given a map and a compass and had to use these to find 15 different points around the town and beach, before finding their way back to the meeting point. The heavens opened and everybody got soaked- notably those who took a bit longer and were stranded without shelter (Myself and Miss Foster!). But the rain didn't dampen the students' spirits and they headed to the beach to play in the sand.



Afternoon: The weather wasn't on our side but the students accepted their saturated fate and made the most of being able to get wet and sandy. Max resembled a sandman and Tasha, an otter. We ate lunch together and those who had spare clothes shared to make sure everyone was at least dry, if not warm. Before leaving the café where we had taken refuge, the waiter approached Miss Foster and I and praised the students' brilliant behaviour and polite manners. Needless to say, we were very proud of them. Team Archie!

Thursday 14th April

Day 3: Medieval towns/villages

By far one of the most enjoyed days of the trip.

Obidós: A gorgeous medieval town where the students were able to buy souvenirs for their families and friends and appreciated the glorious views in the sun.



Eden Gardens: Very zen! Students ate their lunches amongst the buddhas and peaceful art work. They played catch and roamed around the gardens, taking lots of pictures. However, the heavens opened again and, once more, we had to take refuge in the nearest café.



Nazaré: Although tired by this point, the students were brilliant. We saw some beautiful views from the top of the town and saw women in traditional dress of the area- wearing 7 dresses. After this, we walked down what seemed like 1000 steps until the students were once again reunited with the beach. Max and Tasha were very pleased with this.

Friday 15th April

Day 4: School

In the morning, the students got to experience the Portuguese school life, by sitting in a Science lesson, which the students found difficult to understand but appreciated seeing a different approach to teaching and learning. Then, they were free to play in the sun shine.

In the evening, we had a big meal/party at the school. The host families all brought in traditional Portuguese meals and delicacies, which all looked gorgeous. Miss Foster and I were able to meet and thank the parents who had been looking after our students all week and then we all sat down to a beautifully prepared meal. By this point, the students had all found a traditional dish that they loved, so everybody had full tums. After the meal, we started a bit of a “school off” concerning musical talent. The Portuguese had organised their choir to do the evening entertainment of mixing lots of well known songs into a performance – it was brill. Then, individual talents started to show and we witnessed the next Portuguese rock star play his next best seller – Gonchaloe. However, Tasha witnessed this and couldn’t keep her ability to herself. She sat herself at the keyboard and started playing a medley of popular songs and her, Ruby and Max formed a wonderfully talented trio of musical delight to entertain the others. However, my favourite was the French, a

self-confessed non-musical group, who joined together and belted out a French song- no instruments required. An absolutely magical night. It was rewarding to see the close relationships formed between the host families and our students.



Saturday 16th April

Day 5: Pied piper

An absolute scorcher! The families, French students and our students joined together to complete a Pied Piper activity to make sure we'd seen all the sights of Leiria.

We were split up into groups and sent on our way to discover the history and culture of Leiria. Lots of photo opportunities for the students and we all came together at the castle to have a picnic in the sun. The Portuguese again prepared a lovely lunch to share and then sat back whilst the students were able to explore the castle, roam around the castle walls and bathe in some, much awaited, sun. After the picnic, the students were able to spend their last afternoon and evening with their host families before leaving the next day.

Sunday 17th April

Day 6: The journey home

Lots of tears! The Portuguese parents were crying, the Portuguese students were crying, our kids were crying and Miss Foster was very close to crying! So rewarding to see the close relationships and bonds made between the families and the students. Ellie and Ruby have made definite plans to go back in August to see their friends and host families and the other students have begun nagging about being able to go on the trip next year. A very successful trip!

Miss Gurney

