

1st of February, 2018

Erasmus+ project, 2018 UK

Between the 21st and the 27th of January 2018 a group of 4 students from Italy, Germany, Finland, Sweden and Holland went to the UK in order to develop the idea of a new project: "OPEN MINDS OPEN BORDERS". It is about opening our minds to new cultures and people, putting aside stereotypes to actually get to know people from all around the globe. The 20 total students were divided in groups of 2 from different countries; each group also had a third member from Bennett Memorial, the school that hosted the first mobility. I was one of the 4 students from Italy and this is my summary of the week spent abroad.

The first day was spent mostly traveling so the actual work started on Monday, during which we went to the city centre of Tunbridge Wells to develop our photographic skills because the final product of the week had to be a video with all of our work (photos, videos, animations and edits) in it. This product had to be created with "Open minds, Open borders" in mind. We could not edit a bunch of random photos together and be done with this; everything had to make sense: people walking, bridges and roads were among the main subjects of our work because of the message they carry. With our newly acquired skills, we went to London on Tuesday and took high quality photos and video footage of buildings and people that magnified cultural differences in the city. During the following two days, all the groups were hard at work learning new skills with photo and video editing software in order to have a perfect output that conveyed the main message. On Friday the 26th we set up an exhibition in a shop centre with all 10 group's final edited videos and photos on display.

Other than the work that we managed to do at the school, we also had a lot of free time with our host families. We arrived in England on the evening of Monday the 22nd and we spent those first few hours getting to know the first non Italian people that we were going to see every day of that week. The next day we met the other countries' students and had some time to get to know them before the presentation of the week ahead of us. During the following days we got to know the students better and massively developed our bonds with the host families: personally, I formed strong relationships with people from Germany, Finland and the UK. I absolutely loved being the guest in the Sparke's home: they are kind and respectable people and it was a great pleasure having them as hosts. It has not been long at all but we still exchange e-mails and have plans to meet again in the following years. Strangely enough, I also got to know two people from Galileo Galilei: I'd never had one talk with them before this project, so that was an unexpected gain.