

Sunday, 18th October 2009 • After everyone of the 43 students and 3 teachers had arrived at the school for our journey to get started, we went on our "Happy-Holiday"-bus. In the afternoon, after some breaks and travelling, we arrived at Rotterdam, where our ferry to Hull was about to leave. Instructed by the police officer about rules on board and the ship we had enough time to discover the ship "The Pride of Hull" which is one of the biggest in the world. Small cabins made us get closer. But that was okay, because there was only one thing we needed: fun!

Monday, 19th October • At 6:00 a.m., the typical voice of a woman speaking through a loudspeaker got us awake. We were still on the ship. But there was one thing to be happy about: We were going to have a wonderful breakfast sponsored by our teachers (Mrs. Görlach, Mrs. Schilling and Mr. Rahe). Soon, we had to leave the ferry, but first we had to wait to be allowed to get off - waiting for the same beautiful voice having told us that the buffet was open earlier that morning.

- We changed from ship to bus and in the afternoon we went on board of the "Ulysses", an Irish Ferry. We had to sail for three hours but we used this time sensibly: we slept. After Dublin Port was left behind, we arrived at Dublin International Youth Hostel – our home for the following two days.

It is near O'Connell Street, which is Dublin's main thoroughfare. The location is great, because Temple Bar is not far away, either. So, people started a tour to get to see some sights and Irish pubs. It was a nice atmosphere in these pubs and the Guinness tasted twice as good as normal.

Tuesday, 20th October • On Tuesday we got to know Mirna, a very pleasant and open-minded woman – our guide. In an interesting way she told us about Dublin's history, her life there, the city's beautiful places and things we could do in the evening or while having free time.

After lunch another highlight was in sight: The Guinness Storehouse. We were shown how beer is brewed and at the end of the tour, everyone got a pint of Guinness and took a break in the lounge of the Storehouse.

- For the rest of the day we could enjoy free time activities. So we went shopping, saw some special places Mirna told us about, or visited the National Gallery. In the evening some of us were still in the city while others were tired and stayed at the youth hostel. But the night was not long enough for anybody.

Wednesday, 21st October • In the morning, we had to get up early. The next activity on our to-do-list came closer. The plan was to go to the Wicklow Mountains to visit the monastery „Glendalough“. It was raining and the weather did not seem to get better. Nevertheless, we were excited what we were going to see. Mirna who accompanied us on the coach gave us some valuable information about the "Celtic Tiger and its downturn", medical treatment, education in Ireland etc., which was very interesting since Ireland is the „Themenschwerpunkt“ in our English classes at present. When we arrived at "Glendalough" there was not much (but rather „Matsch“). The Irish guide was kind of scaring us and even though she was Irish, she wasn't friendly at all. Unbelievable!

- In the afternoon we had some free time again. Some people went back to the hostel, others wanted to stay in the city.

In the evening we changed roles. Those who were at the hostel in the afternoon wanted to go to the city and those who had already been to the city the whole day, wanted to stay at the hostel.

Thursday, 22nd October • At about 5.00 a.m., the alarm clock rang. It was to remind us that it was time to leave. After stowing our luggage into the bus we had a quick breakfast and the journey went on. After the arrival in Holyhead by ferry, we went to a little town called „Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch“, which is the town with the longest city name in the world. That is a "GUINNESS WORLD RECORD". After visiting „Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch“, we went on to York, the most beautiful city of England. There we had time to have lunch and see some amazing places, like the impressing Munster and picturesque little streets enclosed by lovely little shops. Then we went to Hull where the "Pride of Hull", our ship, was already waiting for us. On board we had to catch up a lot of sleep.

Friday, 23rd October • When we shipped to Rotterdam, we had to go on our bus again, which brought us back home. At about 3.00 p.m. we arrived at our school, where some parents were waiting for our return. By leaving the bus, everybody went back into his/her "ordinary life".