

GERMANY - STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

I got an opportunity to attend a student exchange programme in Germany for a month at Schule Birklehof.



On a lovely Sunday morning of 22nd April, I along with bags of excitement and nervousness landed in Zurich, Switzerland.

I was taken to Hinterzarten, Germany by Mr Markus to the Schule Birklehof. I was warmly welcomed in my house, Petersburg, by my house mistress, Miss Hamerlik, the Round Square representative Mr Bieber and a group of students. I was really fortunate to have a really sweet and cooperative girl, Naui as my roommate.

There were many activities happening in the school which made me feel at home at once. There was a three days sport event which included hockey, basketball, beach volleyball and soccer. Interestingly, I was a part of the fan club for this event.

One of the famous tourist attractions in Germany is Black Forest and the school is located quite close to the woods. We were taken for a three hour trek to the forest and got a chance to spot a variety of wildlife.

On Mr Bieber's suggestion, I along with two other exchange students took a trip to Basel, Switzerland.

I learnt some german dance moves by Mr Zedlier along with Claire and Anastazia.

We had really healthy discussions in the classes on contemporary issues which included "Gun laws in America" and "The Second Amendment". After a long debate of three weeks we presented our stands on the topic.

The school planned a short trip for us to Zurich, where we enjoyed finding 'Laderach' which produces the best swiss chocolates and the restaurant 'Chuchi' where we enjoyed having a proper Swiss meal.

After all the fun, the trip finally came to an end with a wonderful farewell party.

I'd sum up by saying, I miss it all Thursday Round Square lunch to Monday house assemblies with Miss Hamerlik, from everyday walks to Edeka to the debating sessions.

In all, this exchange has widened my outlook and given me a better understand-



ing of cultures across the world. I am extremely thankful to my school for having given me this wonderful opportunity.

Ms. Nandini Agarwal

Class XI

Visit to Spain



It gives me immense pleasure to share my wonderful experience of attending a guitar competition held in Gredos San Diego School in Madrid, Spain from 16th to 21st May 2018. I was fortunate to attend this event along with Principal ma'am.

Upon our arrival we were warmly welcomed and greeted by Miss Cinta who represented the GSD school. She had a lovely smile and wonderful sense of humor. She took us for lunch at one of the best restaurants in Madrid where we had a taste of some lip-smacking Spanish dishes on her recommendation.

We were guided to hotel Hotel Don Pia which was our stay for the night.

Late afternoon we left to have a glimpse of the city. Mr. Max Havier the school official was kind enough to accompany us along with Miss Cinta.

We visited kilometer zero of Spain, a stone slab which marks the geographical center of Spain. It is a historic semicircular stone known as Pureta del Sol.

The famous clock whose bells mark the traditional eating of twelve grapes at New Year is also situated here. We also visited the market and got to see the local produce. It was a long tiring day but very exciting.

Day2: Post breakfast we went for a short tour of the city. We visited the famous Royal Palace of Madrid, Plaza Mayor, Temple of debod , Sabatini garden and Ground Via Primark.

We left for Buitrago, which was some 75 odd kms from Madrid, accompanied by Miss Maria the GSD School official. After meeting the principal we were guided to our hostel rooms. I had 3 roommates Celia, Marthe and Clarke all of them were from Spain. The inaugural function of the event was held in the auditorium. There were two categories, Junior and Senior, with a total of 26 participants. I was the only Indian student there.

Day3: The day started with two rounds of the competition: Quarterfinals and semifinals of both categories. I had a wonderful experience listening to all the performances. Spain is a very beautiful country with a rich musical culture and heritage. Children start learning and playing instruments from the tender age of 3 to 4 years. It was very evident in the contest. Most of the participants in my category have been playing guitar for 8-10 years. In the evening a master class was organized by the school in which their music teacher gave music lessons and important tips to every student individually for about an hour. It was a life time experience for me and a great learning opportunity.

Day4 : After breakfast we all left for Segovia by bus. Segovia is a very beautiful town. It is also very walkable. I felt like we walked uphill all day.

We visited the ancient Roman aqueduct, one of the best preserved aqueducts in the world built in the 1st century AD. Our next destination was Segovia Cathedral, the last gothic cathedral in Spain, followed by alcazar of Segovia, the Royal palace built on a stone peninsula between two rivers. It is currently used as a museum and a military archives building. We returned in the evening and were treated to a very interesting presentation on the making of the classical guitar.

Day 5:

Sunday was the last day of the contest. There were six finalists. All of them gave a brilliant performance. Manuol Mezaquita was the winner of the contest followed by Celia Gonzates, my roommate. We all received two certificates. The president of GSD foundation Mr. Francisco Bouzas addressed the gathering at the closing ceremony. Thus the grand musical extravaganza came to an end.

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Mr Max Javier accompanied us to Toledo in the afternoon. He took us around the beautiful city where we visited the spectacular monastery San Juan de Los Reyes. Our next destination was the splendid Cathedral of Toledo which is a UNESCO World Heritage site with remnants of Jewish and Moorish Culture. We explored the Jewish and Muslim community area and were taken back in time.

Day6: This was our last day in Spain. We visited the GSD headquarters and its school in Madrid. It was a very impressive structure with very friendly kids. After a brief meeting with their Principal, we shared lunch with them in their canteen. We reached the airport by 6.30 pm to board our flight for Dubai and then head back home. This has been a very enriching experience, one that I will fondly remember for a long time to come. .

Ms. Ahana Trivedi
Class X



Report on English Workshop



English language assumes an important place in today's life. The school organized a two-day workshop conducted by Ms. Mahrukh Barucha on communication skills and speech & drama from 22nd June 2018 to 23rd June 2018. The teachers were divided into two batches where they undertook various activities based on improving the communication skills on the first day. Language games were undertaken by the faculty members under the direction of the resource person.

The second day was dedicated to speech and drama where the teachers had to enact certain parts through different fun-filled activities. The learnings from the workshop will be helpful to make the classes interesting and help develop these specific skills. They will definitely aid in enriching the language of the faculty members as well as the students.

- Mrs. Shalini Agarwal
Faculty English Dept



Report on Financial Literacy Workshop



A Financial Literacy Workshop was organized for the teachers on 20th and 21st June, 2018. It was undertaken by National Institute of Securities Market under their Financial Education Training Program. The core idea of the workshop was to educate the teachers to understand the pros and cons of different financial products available in the market and help them to choose the best alternatives while doing future financial planning. The resource person, Mr. Sandeep Biswal, Senior Manager, NISM enlightened everyone about National Pension Scheme, bonds stocks, insurance and mutual funds and helped everyone to understand the products and take judicious decisions while doing financial planning.

Mrs. Neeraj Ghai
Senior Faculty, Commerce Dept.

New Developments

