

# Newsletter 3



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*September 2017 -  
April 2018*

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*Final goodbyes -  
Scotland in  
Estonia*

*20 September  
2017*

*Elisabeth  
Raidma (HTG)*

Last week our project partners from Scotland came to visit us in Treffner Gymnasium in Tartu, Estonia. Despite their stay in the second biggest city in the country was quite short – only four days – we gave



our best to show them



our school and country. During that time, the five Scottish students and their Geography teacher, Mr Miller, visited Tartu, Tallinn, three museums, one science centre, a bog, made a cake and even did some project work.

When our visitors arrived on Tuesday, they had a school tour and visited the Estonian National Museum. The museum was opened less than a year ago and although Estonian history was not that interesting for the Scottish people, they were amazed by the building.

On Wednesday, almost 180 people from the 12th grade of Hugo Treffner Gymnasium went on a bog hike and visited the house museum of our well-known alumnus, Anton Hansen Tammsaare, who is one of the most famous authors in

Estonia, and we took the Scots with us. There they had an interesting walk in Estonian nature (like we did in Scotland) and got to even try our national food called “mulgipuder“, which is a special kind of porridge.



The same night we took them out to eat at an old factory complex, which during the last few years has grown to be one of the most popular places in Tartu. The place is a



hub for creative entrepreneurs, artist and includes designer studios, restaurants, cafeterias and it is the home for historic Printing Museum, which we visited on Thursday, where we made our own notebooks as a workshop. The Scots were quite astonished by the factory and agreed that such places are great for starting entrepreneurs.

After a long day in the factory, our guests visited the AHHA science centre, which they really liked, and an escape room, which is the idea of our school students and located in the basement of our school. Our guests did not get out of the escape room, but they were impressed that we have such a place, even more so that the students themselves had done it from scratch.



On Friday, which was the last day of their visit, we did some project work and after that listened to the presentation about student companies in Estonia, which was given by Sandra Vösaste, who is one of the students who runs the best European student company of 2017, called Festera.

After the official part we decided to make a cake together and visited our school roof, which is kind of a privilege, because everyone does not get to go on the roof.

Upon that, we said our goodbyes and our guests went on to visit Tallinn, which is our capital.

Overall, it was a pleasure to host the Scots and see them again after a satisfying week in Scotland. Hopefully we will meet once more some day!

### *Hungarian students in Germany - October 2017*

6 of us got the opportunity to participate in our exchange program T.E.A.M. and spend a week in Germany in our partner school located near the village of Schelklingen. This report is about our time spent at this wonderful place.

We started our journey on a Saturday. We went by train, so it took us quite long to get there and we were absolutely exhausted when we arrived. Still our group fortunately got to Germany without difficulties and at least we had time to chat and look at the countryside during the journey.

The following Sunday was Family day. We all enjoyed it because we could rest a bit and get used to the new environment instead of attending school and working on our project right away. The German hosts showed us around their town and the places they mostly preferred. An exciting part was that we Hungarians could try the special and typical Swabian dishes.

On Monday our group had the first day of school. Our host students showed us around and then we started our project work. The school looked like a small village to us as it has a boarding school section, a library and lots of separate buildings. It is interesting that the school even has its own bus line.

We organised ourselves into 3 project groups. The 1st group had Inka, N.Vivi, Michelle and Franzi in it. Their task was to make a presentation about working abroad in Hungary and Germany. V.Vivi, Rebeka and Patricia made up the 2a group. They had the task to present about conventional and organic farming. Last but not least the 2b group had Luca, Peti, Andreas and Yannick in it. They made a presentation about fair trade in the coffee and cocoa businesses. We finished the day with an international dinner, where our group was the one who made the sandwiches. It was a great way to try our own nations' meals together.

Tuesday was the day when we visited Hohle Fels, a world heritage site in the afternoon. In the morning, group 2a went to do research in a local supermarket for their project. The groups were making a very good progress with the tasks given to them,



On Wednesday we worked for one hour in the morning then to get some cultural insights to the area as well, we went to Ulm and visited the Münster of Ulm which is a church that gave us a breath-taking view of the city. We also had the opportunity to continue our project work in the local market. Of course after we were done with that we had an amazing time exploring the city.

Thursday was also a day when we were making great progress with the projects, having time for them all day. Late afternoon we, exchange students had some free time with the hosts.

We concluded our project works by Friday and also presented them to the head teacher, some other teachers and a few students. It went very well and the audience loved the presentations.

After that, we said goodbye feeling a bit sad about it and left the school with a bus that also took us to the train station. We travelled home taking some unforgettable memories with us.



*5 things to learn  
from Estonia -  
Belgium in  
Estonia,  
February 2018*

Lies De Smaele from the Heilig-Hartcollege in Waregem (Belgium) took 5 students on an exchange to Estonia. They got to know all about the Hugo Treffner Gymnasium in Tartu for the Erasmus+project T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More). They came home with a bag full of interesting stuff for Flemish schools and students.

**The teachers' room**

Lies De Smaele: "Every teacher has his or her own desk, which is something the Estonian government is investing a lot of money in. Hence, you get a choice to work at home or in school. How convenient would



that be for Belgium? You are together with colleagues you are working with and you always have all your stuff at hand.

I would love to separate work and private a bit more. Now I have to work every night for a few hours once the kids are in bed. In this system, I would try to do all preparation and correction work in school. This system has disadvantages too of course: you lose all your free afternoons and you mingle less with colleagues in other subjects.

**No school bell**

Lies De Smaele: "A tune by Vivaldi indicates the start and end of all classes. When they hear it, all students go to the next room by themselves. We on the other hand have a really 'Flemish' schoolbell. A musical score is less aggressive than a bell sounding.

The first and second graders in our school have to form a line and keep quiet. The last graders since the renovation of our playground not anymore. When the bell has sounded, everyone just goes to class. This is regarded as a positive evolution however: there are no troubles and you lose less time to teach.

### **Classes of 75 minutes**

Lies De Smaele: “In Estonia classes last 75 minutes, which seems nicer than our 50 minutes. 75 minutes offers a chance to tell your story and differentiate in approach. I have to teach so many things that I sometimes skip movies. This way, I could give a 10 minute assignment on smartphone for example.”



Older students can focus for a longer period of time. Plus, teachers will not be mocked anymore that in education, a working hour only lasts 50 minutes! (Just kidding)

### **On a study trip with the colleagues**

Lies De Smaele: “All teachers of the Hugo Treffner Gymnasium went on a study trip to Holland last year. They went to the most innovative schools there looking for ideas for the school’s organisation and teaching practice. The teachers of English even took a course in Great-Britain. A Flemish school doesn’t have the budget for that. Together looking for improvement, that’s inspiring to me.”

“Our school organises a lot of exchanges for the students. Of course the accompanying teachers also learn a lot they can share with the team this way. But that is still something than experiencing this together.”

### **Respect**

Lies De Smaele: “It looks as if everyone in Estonia respects their material and their surroundings. You see that in the streets, but also in school/ There’s no dirt or paper on the floors or dirty toilets here. Everything is and remains neat. This is a different mindset.”

“In Belgium you find trash on the floor. Our maintenance man cleans on a daily base and still you find new trash and paper. Even cleaning their own glasses or cutlery proves not to be easy for teachers. We are not a dirty school, this is just a reflection of the mentality in all of Flanders.”



*The Boeda  
Express  
Belgium to  
Hungary  
February 2018*

Day 1

Our adventure began around 8 a.m. in Waregem. We were all ready to go to Brussels Charleroi. Around 13.30 p.m. we were in Budapest where our exchange students were already waiting for us. Everyone went with their exchange student to settle in at their new home. Some exchange students went to a restaurant and some just stayed home and got to know a few typical dishes of Budapest. In the evening we all got together and drank something while getting to know each other a little bit better. The drinks and foods are very different here so we got to know a lot of new stuff even if it was the first day. It was snowing in Budapest and the exchange students said that we were very lucky to see Budapest like this in the snow. It was a really beautiful and exciting day.

Day 2

It's our second day in Budapest. We could sleep a little bit longer because we were tired of the flight. We have visited the Gellért-hill today. At the top you have the Liberty Statue. There we had a nice view over the city. You could nicely see the two parts of Budapest and the river. Budapest is really known for its spas, so we have visited one. You had a lot of different baths with different temperatures. It was really relaxing. You had three different kinds of saunas and we tried all of them.



Day 3



Today was the first real day of our exchange. The morning started quite early for some of us around 6:30. After we met up with everyone we went to a classroom where we got a little information and then our hosts gave us a presentation about what's special about Hungary. Then we played our introduction on how the life is in Waregem. The next agenda point was a tour in the whole school. Then we worked in groups on our assignment about social media. For lunch we ate rice with fried cauliflower. In the afternoon we did a little sightseeing to Heroes' Square and the Citadella. That was our time with school. With the group we went out for a little bowling game with a lot of fun and competition.

#### Day 4

We woke up around 7 o'clock because we had to be at school around 8:30. The whole morning we worked on the project. We watched an episode of Black Mirror, which was about social media. We also discussed about phone addiction. After that we had a conversation about the gender stereotypes in communication. Around 3 o'clock we went to the Invisible Exhibition. It was an exhibition about blindness and how to live with it. It was a really nice and interesting experience. After this activity we were free to go and spend the rest of the day with our hosts. First we went to an escape room, which apparently was invented in Hungary. We tried to get out of a room that was inspired on the movie 'Saw'. Fortunately we didn't make it in one hour and we had to be liberated.

#### Day 5

Our day started very early today. The first challenge of the day was to get to school by public transport. Once arrived, we started our project work, which was about internet addictions. We made a presentation with positive and negative sides of social media and another group made a dictionary with multiple words about social media. At 10.30 we learned a Hungarian folkdance, the sports teacher taught us some typical dances. It was very fun but really tiring. In the



afternoon we visited the Houses of Parliament, we also saw the crown jewels. We got a nice tour around with a guide. She told us that they used 41 kg of gold leaves for the decoration in the parliament. She also showed us the crown jewels, the chamber and also the lion's gate. It was very impressive. After the tour we were free to go, we ate at a nice Italian restaurant and chilled / shopped at the city centre. We also visited the big Saint Stephen's basilica. It was very impressive with a lot of decorations inside.



### Invisible Exhibition - by Nóra Pátrovics (Hungary)

The Invisible Exhibition in Budapest is an extraordinary journey to a world, where in total darkness you find your way only by touch, sounds and scent.

We had the chance to visit this exhibition with our exchange students in February 2018, and we all agree that it was quite an experience as it was exciting and emotive at the same time.

I would say there were two main parts of the exhibition. Since the maximum amount of people who could go in to 'see' it at a time was 10, we split up in two groups; a

group of the Belgian students, whose guide used English, and a group of the Hungarian students.



While waiting for our turn we could experience some of the challenges a blind person has to cope with at first hand. There was a few meters

long maze in the hall, which we had to walk through blind-folded with the help of a stick. Not everyone tried it, but those who did said it was not easy at all.

Then came the first part of our visit and it was fascinating as we finally got to understand something most of us have already wondered about before. How do blind people read and write - by using the so-called Braille writer. It's a system of making raised dots on paper



to form letters and words that are readable by using your fingertips. It seemed a little complicated at first, but then I realised that's it is actually super easy and a brilliant idea. We all tried to use this method, by typing our names, or any word. We were chatting with a lady who wasn't completely blind, but almost. She told us what we should expect in the second part of the exhibition.

We talked about how we might help blind people in the streets or in the city if they need it, which in my opinion was pretty obvious but it was still useful to discuss it.

There are points that one may not think of such as the principle that you should always ask first if the blind person needs any help at all and the rule that you must never take their arm but you should tell the blind person clearly on which side of them you are and allow them to take your arm instead.

The second part, the main 'attraction' of the exhibition was a completely dark room which we entered with our group and a blind tour guide.

First, we had to walk through a hallway, staying closely behind each other with one hand on the wall. It was pretty exciting and we were really curious at that point already. Our guide then introduced himself. He walked us to different rooms, where we could only 'look around' by touching things and trying to guess what they were. Some things were pretty obvious, but with others, we had trouble figuring out what they were, so when our guide told us, we were quite surprised. For example there was a room with statues, and we would have never guessed that one of them was a Disney character.

There was also an area where a street of a city was recreated. We could hear the sounds of a traffic jam. Other than these places, we actually walked through rooms of a house like a bathroom and a kitchen and even a hunting lodge with antlers on the walls.

The last 'stop' was at a bar where we could sit down and just chat with our tour guide.

We learned how the life of a blind person is different from a non-blind person's. Of course the fact that they cannot see with their eyes makes it difficult, but with some help they can easily learn things and lead relatively "normal" lives. We, people with sight, can help them first of all by just simply being open-minded and accepting that blind people are like us in more ways than not! Advances in technology, such as smart and talking devices also help the blind a lot these days.

This was my second time at the exhibition and I personally really enjoyed both visits! So did the other students, as we talked about our experience later. I definitely recommend the exhibition to everyone. You will truly enjoy it if you want to get to understand others more and get a glimpse of others' lives, and who would not be interested in that?

*The Scottish  
week in Belgium*

*February /  
March 2018*

Monday 26/2



We started the week with a tour around the school. We showed them the new building the school is going to build and danced in our gym classes. The Scottish people think it is a big and modern school. We started off with the project work. Everyone has their own group and do different things.



At 11.15 we went to eat at our school cafeteria and the food was great. Then we

went into the city and showed them Waregem a bit. We went back to school to work further on our project and then we started preparing the food court. We invited our parents to have a taste of the traditional Scottish dishes. After that we went for a drink in Waregem. It was a good start of the amazing time we will have with them!

Tuesday 27/2



In the morning we did projectwork. In the afternoon we went to Bruges by train. We did a photo search. And made a task. The winner won a 50 euro voucher for eating. We also had a little free time. In the evening we went to a restaurant. Then we

took the train back to Waregem.

Wednesday 28/2

Today we went to the Hippowar Museum in Waregem. We got to know the history from Waregem in WOI. We walked back to school and had lunch. After that, we had a free afternoon. Most of us went to visit Ghent. There were also pupils who went to Ypres or Antwerp. We had some free time and enjoyed one another's company.



### Thursday 1/3

Today we left school at 9.30. We went with the bus to Barco, the high tech company. I think everyone was impressed how cool the company is. First we went to the theatre where we saw some 3D-trailers from Pirates Of The Caribbean and Star Wars.



It was really good quality and impressing. Then we went to a room with all the screens and the massive curve screen. There was also a virtual reality room and we could all test it. The health care room was also interesting, Barco has very good products. The entertainment room was also really cool. Just knowing that Barco has products all over the world is so impressing and it's very nice we could visit it. We ate in Barco and then went to the Vlasmuseum. It was an interesting museum and you could actually do things. After that we went to the centre of Kortrijk for some shopping and drinking. It was a really good day.

### Friday 2/3

At our last day we started off with project work. We had to give presentations for other pupils. We had our last lunchtime together and it was lasagne. J We spent the last hours watching a movie and then it was time to say goodbye. Most of us had it difficult to leave their exchange student and the group.

*Final meeting*  
*Belgium*  
*March 2018*



creative working space for the week.

We welcomed 117 students in our school from 16/03 to 24/03, for our final meeting of the Erasmus+ KA2-project TEAM, with the cooperation of the project Crossroads with the Future. We met each other with the help of the city of Waregem in the Biblab, our

Day 1 (Friday): When all the exchange students arrived at the station we were enthusiastic to see all of them again. It had been a longer time since the Basque people and their hosts had seen each other so they went home to get to know each other a little bit better.

Day 2 (Saturday): On Saturday the Basque students went to Antwerp and the Norwegian students went to Ostend. It was cold so walking in the city or at the beach wasn't that nice. All of us ate at a restaurant, they all enjoyed it and the food was very good. In the evening we went to at someone's place to play some games like ping-pong and listened to some good music. In the meantime, our German friends arrived, together with the Estonian and Hungarian delegations.

Day 3 (Sunday): In the evening most of the delegations went bowling and it was nice to do an activity with all different nationalities. It was a nice weekend with all the different delegations and despite the bad weather we all had a great time and enjoyed it. Because of the nice weekend all of us were looking forward to the week and we hope the week will be as much fun like the weekend or even better.

Day 4 (Monday): Today was the start of the project week. We set our own work spaces in the Biblab and started working on both Erasmus-projects. The TEAM-project had to start up the marketing campaign for an innovative company, the Crossroads-team had to test software and digital innovations. Afterwards, we had a food court at the school, this means that every delegation made food that is typical for their country. The delegation from Spain made the Spanish omelet which is a tradition in Spain and was really good. It is typically Spanish because in other countries they don't eat omelets that often. They also made Garrotes which is chocolate in a roll of bread. The delegation from Norway made Laksewrap and



Brunost (Brown cheese). Laksewrap is salmon wrapped in a tortilla with different sauces and chives. Brunost is brown cheese it is actually the same as normal cheese but it has more of a brown color and it tastes more like

caramel and it's more "sticky". The people from Belgium obviously made French Fries which is typically Belgium and they also presented Cuberdons which is Belgian candy shaped like a cone but in Belgium they say it looks like a "nose", the outer layer is hard and the inside is rather soft and a bit like jelly. The delegation from Iceland made Flatkökur and Hjúpur. Flatkökur is Icelandic flatbread, Icelandic butter and a slice of smoked Icelandic lamb. Hjúpur is Icelandic marzipan covered in Icelandic licorice, covered in Icelandic chocolate. The delegation from Hungary made sandwiches with typical Hungarian sausages in it and pepper. The delegation of

Germany made a special drink of Germany called spezi It's a mix of cola and fanta and also a dish "bread with black forest ham" typically German. The delegation of Estonia made Kohuke: a special dessert with curd filling and chocolate coating. So there was a



lot of food at the food court on Monday and everyone was trying the food of all the different delegations, everyone had a good time and also the parents enjoyed the food.

Day 5 (Wednesday): On Wednesday 21 of March we went to Kortrijk. We first followed a lecture about Hangar K, presented by the founder Piet Verhoeve in the university of Kortrijk, called the Kulak. Hangar K is a building – a renovated train station - in Kortrijk where recently started companies and big entrepreneurs meet each other. With this concept they want to be the first in West-Flanders to have the ambition to give a chance to recently started entrepreneurs. The reason he started this project was because a lot of young people who have studied, leave their region (Kortrijk) and so the big companies around Kortrijk cannot find new and talented employees. After Hangar K, we obviously went home and didn't do anything naughty, because we are all intelligent and responsible people. Then we went to 'De Treffer' in Waregem where we had dinner.



Day 6 (Thursday): Today was the day Ubisoft came to present their Assassin's Creed



Discovery Tour. We were going to test the game to its educational value. The combination of work and play proved to be a good one and we tested Assassin's Creed together with some other innovations in the informatics

department: we phoned into a lecture at the nearby university KULAK as well with the help of our Barco-partner and we discussed educational needs for the 21st century. In the afternoon we went on our own discovery tour in Ghent.



*Exchange  
Waregem to  
Urspring  
April 2018*

Since we were unable to go to Schelklingen just before the Easter holidays due to a flu outbreak, we had to postpone our visit to the Urspringschule. At the end of April, the time finally came and we started our 720 km trip to our partnerschool in Schelklingen with 7 students and 1 teacher/driver.

When we came there, the first thing that struck us were the beautiful surroundings: an old cloister with all buildings next to a spring -hence the name of the school- and surrounded by woods. Call it a village in its own in which some of the students take on the duties of janitor of their building. This school also attracts students from Switzerland, China and all around the world. Of course these boys and girls can not just go home every day, so the school offers all facilities like cooking together, studying together.

To be a part of this was an experience in itself: a good old-fashioned bell indicated that we were expected at the canteen, our project work took place in a library like we would want one, we even watched Bayern-Real on a huge screen in the canteen! But there was more: since we were working on the subject of ecology



and sustainability, we were taken to Stuttgart, to the Mercedes-museum. The history of this car label ran together with the history of our western civilisation, a story that unwound from the top to the bottom of the building, 8 stories long. The Wilhelma afterwards showed us

how the protection of animals can go hand in hand with a botanical garden.

But of course you can't just live from cars and botanical gardens alone, so on



Monday we went baking Brezels in the local bakery Becka Beck. The pictures with white coats and caps will probably chase us forever. On Wednesday we went to Ulm, where the bravest of us dared to climb the cathedral to see the Donau

from the top. We could also lie in a chair to see Ulm anno 1890 in VR as a bird, which was cool too. And from the VR from the future, we dove again in the past: in Blaubeuren we got a tour through the stone age on Thursday.

*By Koen Devlaminck, teacher*

A few reactions from students:

“To me it was a unique experience. This school is situated in an area that is made of dreams to me” - Jonas Decock (6 handel A)

“To me, this was all one big adventure. We got to know a different culture. At first, it took a bit of effort to get adapted, but it was worth it. The trip to Stuttgart, the drive with the mini-van, it was all great.” - Thomas De Stoop (6 handel A)

“This was one of the highlights of my school career. I learned a lot about being a boarding student and it was great fun!” - Emiel Dhondt (6EE2)

“There’s a lot more nature in Urspring than in our school. It looks like a small village, which is nice. The boarding area even resembles a house in which you can cook and watch TV together with friends. I enjoyed it a lot!” - Céline Dejonghe (6EE2)