

Let's go and explore - with the English department!



Brussels



The Hague



Amsterdam

June 2023 was the first time since 2017 that our 1ère pupils were offered an educational trip. This year's attractive destinations were Brussels, Amsterdam and The Hague, each of which were visited by

a group of around 30. The pupils discovered the cities from various perspectives, learning about their historical as well as current importance. The working language throughout was English and everybody was actively involved in the documenting of the trips. Let's see what their impressions were!

Brussels

Going to Brussels

13h47 we left the school.

Then figuring out the rooms.







We stopped at a station at 16h and one was missing, so we were delayed. We arrived at 18h45.

We were all hungry and wanted to eat as soon as possible. So we went, and we were all happy. Then we all went to bed.

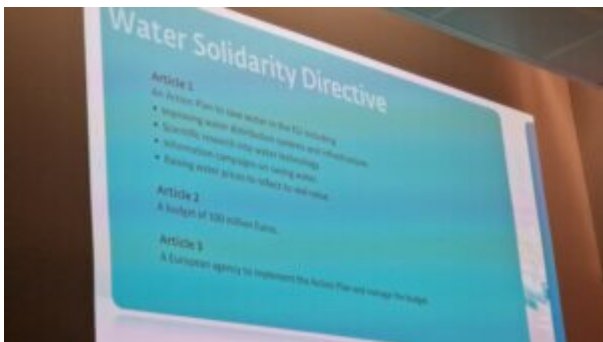
Report of the First Day in Brussels, on 26th June 2023

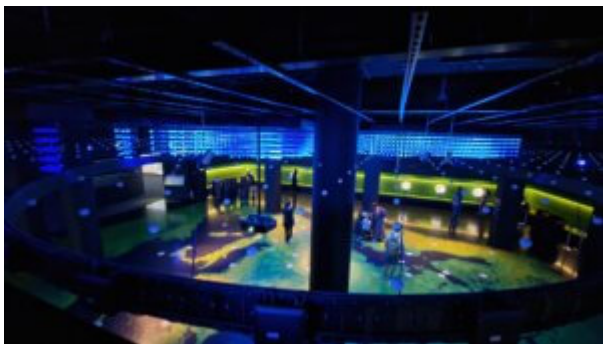
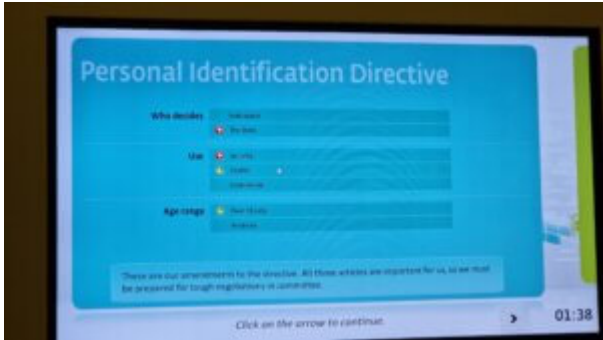
Our first day in Brussels began after a hot and humid night in the hostel.

Our “task of the day” was to explore and capture moments related to the Belgian monarchy. We started by departing for the European Parliament at 8:40 am and arrived there around 9:20 am. The check-in process at the parliament was like that of an airport.











We had a guided tour in German, and our first stop was the main room, which featured a magnificent sculpture from Belgium. Additionally, there was a painting representing each of the other countries. We delved into various topics during our tour, starting with a discussion on the President of the European Parliament, followed by European Elections and European Politics.

We learned about the structure of the European Union, with the European Commission, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. In the Plenary Chamber, we explored the diversity of languages and the challenges faced by translators, particularly with the German language. Two interesting facts stood out: despite the difficulties, 97% of MEP speeches are translated accurately, and due to the demanding nature of their work, translators can only work for 15 minutes before needing a break.

Our tour concluded at 11:25 am, and we had a lunch break from 11:45 am to 12:45 pm. Afterward, we visited the House of European History, where we were captivated by an exciting exhibition showcasing significant periods and moments in European history, including World War I and II.

Then the group engaged in a Parliamentarium role-play game, assuming the roles of MEPs from different political parties. We were tasked with finding a compromise to reduce water consumption and waste, as well as proposing a realistic plan for introducing chip implants. After intense discussions and negotiations, we decided to allocate 150 million euros for infrastructure improvements, research investments, and a public awareness campaign. As for the chip implants, the compromise was that they could be used for health, commercial, and security purposes, with individuals having the freedom to decide for themselves, while children required parental consent.



















Finally, we had the opportunity to visit the Parlamentarium, an exhibition that delved into European relations and included the topic of Brexit. A fortunate few also had a spontaneous meeting with a Member of the European Parliament (MEP).

We concluded the day by returning to the Youth Hostel of Jacques Brel, reflecting on the enriching experiences and insights gained during our time at the European Parliament in Brussels.

9am: Gathering of the group



9:10am Miss Hawk lecturing us



9:20am On our way to the Grand Place



9:45 am -10am arriving at Grand Place and visiting the Maison du Roi with a guided tour



Break from 12-14 am to eat and visit the city		
2:30pm Visiting the Place Saint-Géry		
Visiting the Stock Market		
Break at the Church until 5pm		
		
God Bless		

Thursday the 29th of June

Brussels

- comics are very popular in Belgium
- first published in newspapers
- famous comics: Tintin, the Smurfs, ...

- Departure at 9.00 am from the hostel
- 12.00 pm at the museum of comics
- 14.00 pm to 21.30 pm free time for the class

Departure at 9.15 am



National bank



First stop



Lucky Luke



Billy is a cat



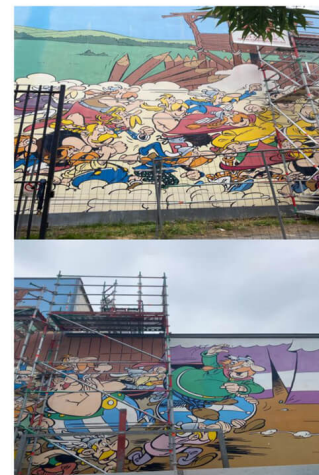
The big wolf
carrying the sheep



Cubitus



Asterix & Obelix



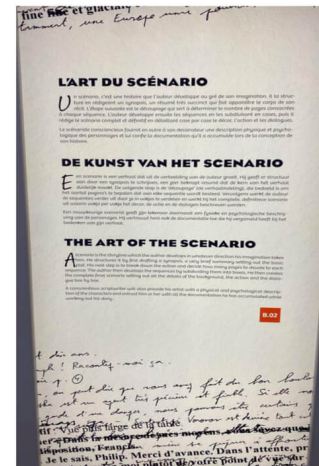
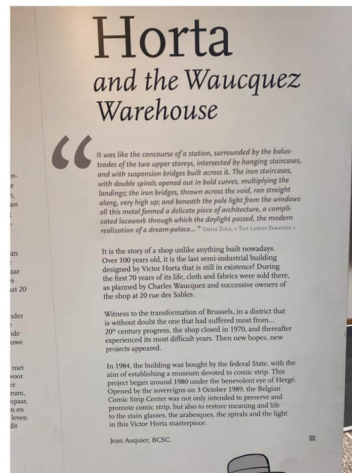
The smurfs

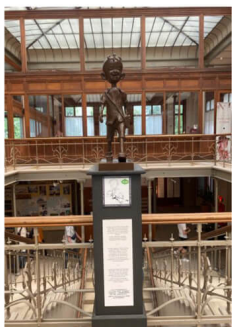


Bob and Bobette



Museum of comics





Our class in
the museum

The boutique of the museum



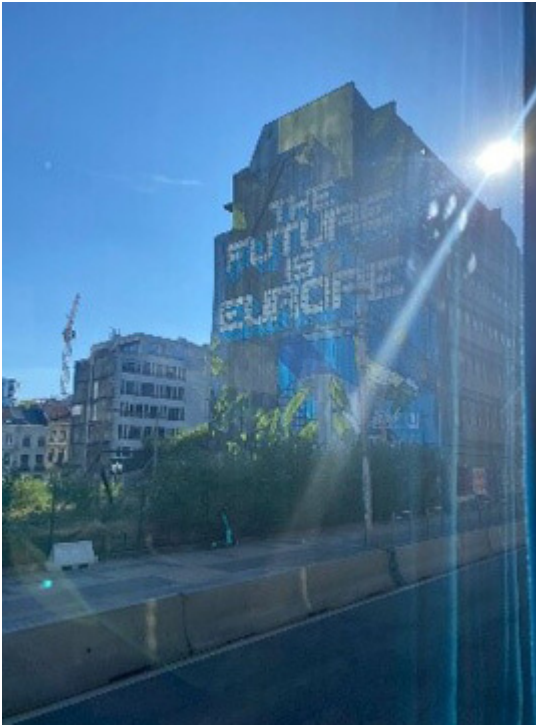
Last day :

We had lunch at 7h30 and our meeting at 9h00.

We left the hostel at 9h and went to the Botanical Garden to wait for the bus.

The bus was late due to an accident and traffic jam.





The bus arrived at 10h54!!!

We all put our luggage in the bus and went inside.

We were a bit tired and slept all the way, but we woke up as soon as we had a break.

We had a break at 12h30.

And we finally arrived back home at 16h20.

The Hague

We thought it would be an interesting idea to film a vlog. It gave us the possibility to rewatch the highlights of the week in The Hague such as going to the beach, visiting the peace palace and the museums, cycling to Delft and playing „beret“ and card games.

Xoxo

Linn Berwanger, Emmy Geyer, Noriana Geyer and Lilou Adam-Kana



Why would you like to go on a trip? The typical answer to this question contains generally two different ideas: firstly, many people would reply that they want to discover something new and secondly, they would add that they want to escape a few days from the monotony of their everyday life. Therefore, travelling seems to appeal to us in two different ways: on one hand, we see in it the opportunity of interaction with the unknown and on the other hand, we want to take care of ourselves by finding our intimacy outside of our habitual bubble.

The coexistence of those two essential elements is what made our trip to The Hague a particular experience. First of all, we had the opportunity to explore a new country with a fairly special language and culture. We discovered its landscapes and its art and got a good insight into the particularities of the city of The Hague and its environment, our hunger of unknown was thus satisfied.

But what characterises the unknown? When we speak of the phenomenon of novelty we actually mean a very short moment: the first contact with the unknown. The contemplation of it is accompanied by a process of acknowledgment: after a short period of time the unknown becomes known and integrates itself in our big pool of memories and knowledge.



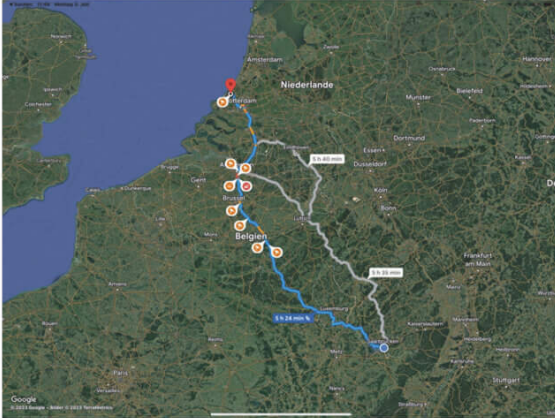
This is exactly how it was in The Hague: after a day, the language that earlier seemed so strange became normal, and after two days it was already familiar and so on. This process of becoming intimate with the unknown is what fosters the earlier described “new intimacy” that we are looking for when travelling and that permits us to take a deep breath of variety outside of our normal context.

All in all, The Hague for me was the symbiosis between those two elements that constitute a good excursion and that is what made this class trip so special!

Alexander Bak

The Hague diary by Sophie, Margaux & Fabienne

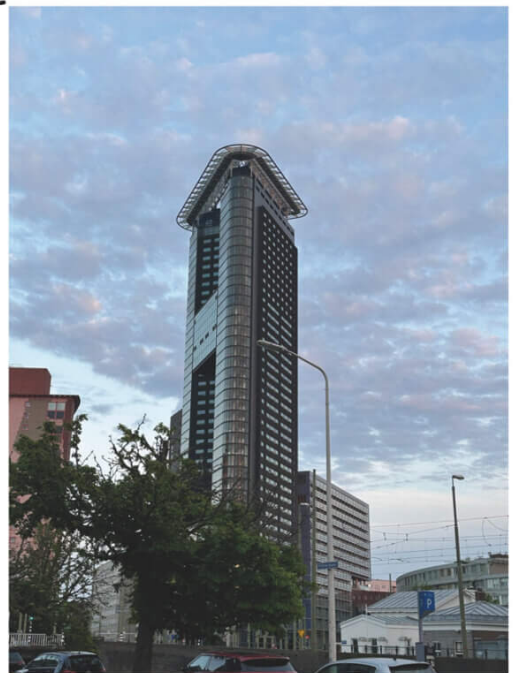
Day 1



Saarbrücken 7:30
The Hague 15:00



First we got time to
familiarize with the
city



SOME OF
US WENT
TO THE
BEACH



In the evening
we played cards
together !

@sophie

Day 2



First we had
a guided tour
of the city with
students from partner
school in Gouda.

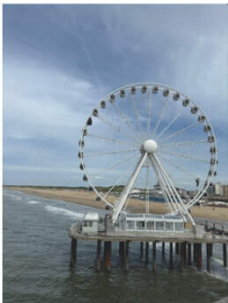


We had a picknik
at the peace palast

Then we took the tram
and went to the beach



-
- At the beach we played
an ice breaking game
 - Some of us went swimming



Then
we
enjoyed
the
view

© Sophie

Photo challenge :

Day 3



we visited
the peace
palast

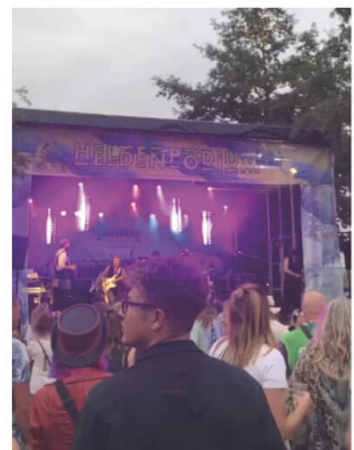


winner

Then we visited the
Mauritshuis museum



← We got a guided tour
through the museum



IN THE EVENING WE WENT TO THE
ZEEHELDEN FESTIVAL !

@sophie

Day 3

I really enjoyed the trip and it's for sure something that will stick in my mind. We did a lot of different things that were kinda different. We went to the city, to the beach and to museums. One day that will specifically stick is Wednesday.

In the morning we had a lot of free time so we went to the city where we did a little bit of shopping. It was very nice because we could move freely and could do whatever we wanted. In previous school trips we weren't so free and always had to stay with a teacher so this was something I really appreciated. At 12 o'clock we had the meeting point at the peace palace. There we went in some kind of museum and learnt a little bit about the history of the country and more specifically about the city.

After that we went to another museum called the Mauritshuis museum. I think that, from all the museums we visited, this is by far my favourite. Normally I am not very interested in art but I really liked the look of the museum. But the greatest thing was the tour. The normal stereotype of a museum visit is a boring guide that just explains rapidly the paintings and then go on. What I really liked about our guide was that she chose some paintings and didn't try to show us the most possible in a little bit of time. Thanks to this she could really teach us the meanings of the paintings and how it was painted. Like I said I am normally don't really interested in art but thanks to the way she explained it, I started to think about the paintings and the meanings and I learned a lot about how to "read" a painting. And I think the paintings she chose were different from one another so that we went in a lot of different directions about the artists, meanings and the techniques. Another thing that I liked was that she tried to involve us in the tour. She was asking questions about what we think of the painting so that we try to think ourselves about what the meaning could be and I think that it's really interesting how different people can see completely different things from the same painting, focus on different things and see details that other persons would probably not see. So that was something that I liked a lot.

And then in the evening we went to a festival. I must admit that in the beginning I wasn't really enjoying it because it was not the kind of music I listen to at all. So during the free time we had there, we looked a little bit around the festival and walked through the city. But when we had to meet again, we listened to a song together, with the entire group. I remember that the band that was on stage were pirates (that was funny). Then some of us started to dance and we all went along. That was a really nice thing because during the trip we all were in like smaller groups and during that song we were like all dancing together. Then one of us began to form some sort of snake around the festival. That is without a doubt one of my favourite memories about this trip because we create some sort of nice atmosphere and a lot of people we don't know that were there for the festival just followed along. I think we were probably there for only two or three songs but during these songs we had so much fun and we were like one big group and everybody was dancing together and I think that is for sure something to remember.

So I really mean it when I say that I liked everything about this trip. It was so nice because we had a lot of free time where we could go somewhere with a smaller group but we were still all together quit some time but it was never annoying like It could sometimes be when you are in a group this big for several days. For me everything about this trip was really nice.

(Again thank you a lot for this wonderful week Mrs. Roig, Mrs. Köwenig and Mr. Reppert)

@ margaux

Day 4



→
We drove to Delft



We had lunch in a nice cafe

We went shopping and explored the city



Delft



We went out for ice cream in the evening. After that we played some games together

@sophie

Day 4

First of all, the trip was awesome. It was our first trip as upperclassmen, and it was a whole new experience. We were allowed to do many things on our own, like visiting the city without any teachers during our free time. But there is one day that I appreciated specifically.

On Thursday, we visited Delft, a city situated between Rotterdam and The Hague. First, I dreaded that day because we traveled there by bike, and I must admit here that I'm not very fond of this means of traveling. But it wasn't as bad as I expected in the end. Luckily (for me), one little group, originally called the lazy group (it was a shame that I wasn't a part of it, being a specialist in laziness), got stuck at red lights and was separated from our main group, so we had to take a break. It wasn't to my displeasure, if I'm being honest. But even without that little funny incident, the trip wasn't too exhausting. It was even a little bit enjoyable due to the beautiful landscapes that the Netherlands had to offer.

As soon as we arrived in Delft, we had some free time to visit the city. The teachers gave us a link for a tour of Delft, but we didn't use it, thinking that it would be far more thrilling to explore the city on our own. And as we thought, it worked really well. But before we started our own exploration, we decided to eat and drink something at a café nearby. Then we walked around and finally reached the marketplace. There, we looked around, appreciating the ambiance. Then we got hungry again and decided to buy something to go at a local bakery (Backwerk). But since I didn't feel like eating some groceries, I looked around and found a candy store. The following outcome is self-evident (plenty of candies found their way into my backpack). We spent our last hour of free time in a vinyl and CD store that we found by chance. I thought that I found the Garden of Eden; all my favorite bands were displayed on the shelves.

Then, we visited the Vermeer museum. I must say that I wasn't really interested in it at first, but to my great surprise, it was a refreshing experience. The museum was not like others. There weren't any original artworks by Vermeer, but rather pictures with auditory explanations given by audio devices from the museum staff. It was surely an unusual way of sharing ancient information by using modern technology. After the visit to the museum, we started our way back, again on the bike. However, we split again into two different groups, one that went directly back to the hostel, and the second that went to a second-hand shop before. There, we joked around and finally headed back.

This day was simply great. I really enjoyed the free time in small groups but also our time all together. The trip will be a memory that I'll cherish for sure. Thanks again to the teachers for this great time that was granted to us thanks to them.

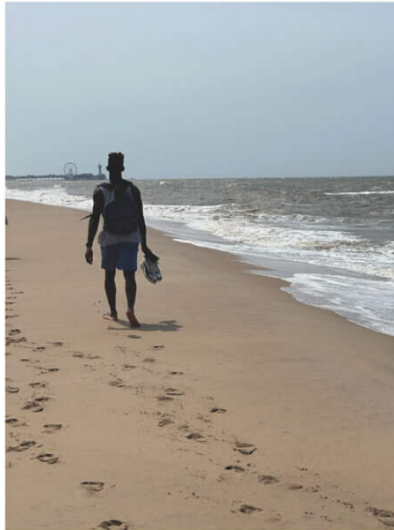
Day 5



We were hiking the whole morning



We enjoyed the view



We had lunch at the beach. Then we walked a while to reach the spot from day 2



We went to our favourite place



We played all together into the night @sophia

THANKS

to Ms Roig , Ms Köwenig and
Mr. Reppert

We really enjoyed the week

Sophie , Margaux & Fabienne

The Hague report by Rihanna and Anne-Claire

26.06.23: On Monday we left Saarbrücken in bus at approximately 7:30 AM. We arrived in The Hague in the middle of the afternoon. As we arrived at the hostel we got to go in our room and start to

unpack, we had a free time before dinner and we took this opportunity to start visiting the city. We came back for dinner and, because we had free time after dinner too, went back in the city where we found a place to listen to music and talk together in front of the Parliament.

27.06.23: On the next day we learned a few things about The Hague, thanks to a few students who gave us a guided tour. We saw a few important monuments of The Hague including the Parliament and the Peace Palace. After that we all went to the beach where we ate and played together in order to break the ice. We then walked a little and arrived at the top of a hill where we had a panorama view of the beach and on a part of the city

28.06.23: On Wednesday we started our day with a free time, we didn't do anything in that time because i think we were starting to be a little bit tired. We met at noon in front of the Peace Palace where we visited the visitor center. We then went to the Mauritshuis museum where we saw Girl with a Pearl Earring. we then went back to the hostel to eat and then went to the Zeehelden festival.

29.06.24: The next day we went to Delft, a little city near The Hague, by bike. There we had a free time which gave us the opportunity to visit the city. We all met at 2 o'clock in front of the Vermeer Museum to visit. After the visit we went back to The Hague by bike. After dinner we kept the bike and during our free time we did a small tour of the city.

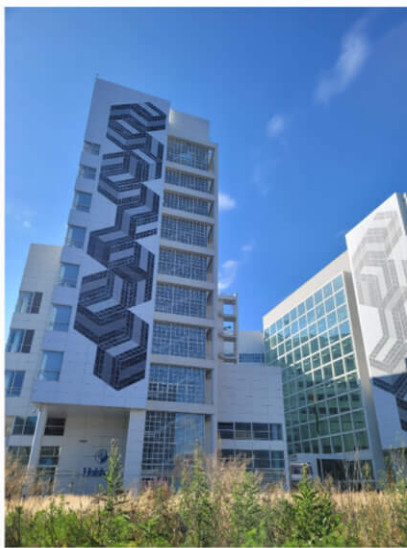
30.06.23: On Friday we went to the beach by tramway. We then did a hike and then went back to the beach. Once again we played together and a few of us went swimming. When we got back to the hostel I think most of us were a bit tired so we napped and then got ready before dinner to go out during free time.

01.06.23: On Saturday we left The Hague to go back to Saarbrücken. We arrived in the afternoon.

The Hague- A city full of art and sights

During our stay in The Hague, we saw a lot of statues in the downtown. Also kind of paintings and mosaics on the buildings make out of this city a very beautiful and colorful one. Thanks to the fact that the The Hague is the political city of The Netherlands, you can also discover some big buildings like the dutch parliament, the Peace Palace (Vredespaleis) and the Ministry of Justice and Security.

I think that the city did a great job: it combined both. For instance, the dutch parliament is next to the Mauritshuis, a museum in which you find paintings like the *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Johannes Vermeer. And next to the the central library, there is The Hague Municipality (Gemeente Den Haag) and two huge masaics. The perfect combination between modern art/ cultur and politics!



Visit to the Mauritshuis museum in Den Haag (Sebastian, 1S2)



On the second day of our stay in Den Haag we went to the renowned Mauritshuis museum, home to many Dutch masterpieces. Our teachers had booked the guided tour, which allowed us to fully appreciate the selection of tantalizing works of art.

The tour started with a brief overview of Maurice's biography, which helped us understand how the art collection came to be. The tour guide explained that the Mauritshuis was originally built between 1636-1641 as a private residence for Count John Maurice of Nassau, therefore the name Mauritshuis ("huis" meaning house in Dutch). It was only later transformed into an art museum, which opened to the public in 1822. Count John Maurice of Naussau was a very wealthy man and a passionate art collector. He acquired a great selection of paintings, mainly from the Dutch Golden Age era. His collection includes pieces by the grandmasters Vermeer, Rembrandt and Hals, which form the core of the museum's collection.

The highlight of the tour was without a doubt the world famous masterpiece: "Girl with a Pearl Earring" (1665) by Vermeer. The tour guide explained that, although this was such a renowned painting, it is to this day unknown who the girl represents and who was used as a model. Art historians believe the girl may not represent a particular person at all, but instead is meant to showcase what Dutch girls looked like at the time. The tour guide also explained the lighting technique used for the centerpiece of the painting, the pearl. Vermeer never actually drew a pearl, the portrayer only imagines a pearl because of the special lighting Vermeer makes use of.

In fact, not even the model Vermer used for the pearl was a real pearl, but a glass ball covered in varnish. Art historians came to that conclusion because pearls of that size didn't grow in the Netherlands, and it was a fashion trend at the time to wear fake pearl earrings.

The tour guide also showcased the masterpiece "The Bull" (1647) by Paulus Potter, which was one of my favorite paintings. He explained that Potter usually tried to be very detailed and realistic in his art, by adding small details, such as the frog in the foreground of "The Bull". However, in this painting Potter made a mistake. The Bull, which is the centerpiece of the painting, has a disproportionately small head. This is due to Potter's perfectionism. Since he could not find a single bull that was worthy of being starred in his painting, he decided to create a bull, by pasting together different bull parts. However he made the mistake of choosing a calf's head, which did not match the body of a full-grown bull. The tour guide also mentioned that the painting had been stolen by the French during the time of Napoleon, due to Napoleon's great interest in art. After Napoleon was defeated, the Louvre was

initially unwilling to return the painting because the staff had become so attached to it. However, the Netherlands joined forces with England and Germany, whose paintings had also been stolen by the French, and the painting was ultimately recovered by force.

The tour guide also presented one of Rembrandt's early paintings, „The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp“ (1632), which marked the beginning of his fame. Rembrandt had received a commission to paint a group portrait of the newly appointed chief of medicine and his team. This assignment was a great honor, especially since it was typically reserved for the most renowned painters (Rembrandt had not gained fame yet at that time). Rembrandt aimed to capture Dr. Nicolaes Tulp and his team in action, wanting to create an original painting instead of the



conventional group portrait where everyone stood in line and looked serious. The tour guide directed our attention to the corpse that the medical team was studying, which led us to notice that the proportions seemed off. The arms and legs of the dead body seemed too short. The tour guide further explained that the man's hands had been amputated as a punishment for his crimes. Consequently, Rembrandt had to paint the hands without actually observing them, which explains why they seem too short. As for the legs, Rembrandt intentionally depicted them as shorter. He knew that viewers typically started examining paintings from the bottom right corner. Therefore he painted the legs in a way that they seemed the perfect length when looking at the painting from that angle, although they seemed disproportionate from other perspectives. The tour guide also mentioned that the open arm showcased in the painting was anatomically inaccurate. Rembrandt chose to paint the arm in a less realistic manner, prioritizing aesthetics.

Finally the tour guide drew our attention to the hat-like shadows surrounding two of the members of the chief of medicine's team. They were originally wearing hats, but the chief of medicine requested Rembrandt to remove the hats, since he wanted to be the only person wearing a hat in the painting.

A big thank you to the tour guide, who presented and explained a well-chosen selection of magnificent Dutch masterpieces and to Mrs. Köwenig, Mrs. Roig, and Mr. Reppert for having organized this tour (and the wonderful trip)! The three paintings that I described above were my favorites and I brought postcards of them home. I can only recommend visiting the Mauritshuis museum to appreciate these wonderful paintings in person.

Day 3: Wednesday 28th June 2023

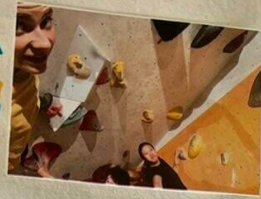
1. Free time - photo challenge
Going to beets boulder
with Xaelle and Philippe →

2. Our photo of the challenge
↓



→ Sololals!

3. Peace Palace: Visitors' centre



4. Visit and workshop: Mauritshuis Museum



→ The famous
girl with the
earring...



Mh

Plein 29
2511 CS Den Haag
shop@mauritshuis.nl
www.mauritshuis.shop

Tijd: 28-6-2023 15:40
Bomnr: F1K2-23.021380





... and other paintings



5. Zeelanden Festival



We went there by train



#Day 4: Thursday 29th June 2023

vermeer
centrum
delft

1. Departure for Delft with bicycles

Once arrived
I visited the city
with Philippe.



2. Dinner with the others in a nice Restaurant

Such a beautiful city!



BOTERHUIS

tel: 501 a
nd coor: Mei-Lin

29.06.2023 13:34
104077



Creative Clay Garden
Unique wearable art

☎ +31 6 43419049
🔍 creativeclaygarden.com
✉ creativeclaygarden@hotmail.com
📷 @creativeclaygarden

Sweet little
shops in
Delft

STRANDHOUTCREATIES

Handgemaakt door

3. Visit of
Vermeer museum

vermeer
centrum
delft

share your experience

Vermeer Centrum Delft
#VermeerCentrumDelft

Meer



4. Returning to our hostel in The Hague
A bit windy but a nice tour even if my bicycle was
kind of broken in



5. Free time

I went with Leah to the
city to buy cheese for
family



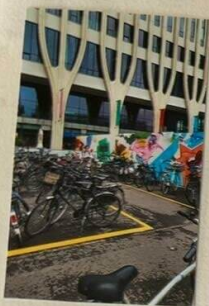
CHEESE & MORE
by Henri Willig



Enjoy Henri Willig Cheese

Shop online on www.henriwillig.com
Fast World Wide Shipping - Premium Dutch Cheese

... and then we cycled until the sea



6. After Dinner 20 km on the bike with Leah.



Day 5: Friday 30th June 2023

1. Departure for walk on the coast



2. Time on the Beach





Photo album by Matilda Krauser



During my school trip to The Hague, I had the incredible opportunity to visit the Visitor Center of the Peace Palace, where I gained a deeper understanding of the functioning of these esteemed institutions. As I entered the center, I was immediately captivated by the aura of tranquility and international cooperation that permeated the surroundings. The Visitor Center provided a comprehensive overview of the Peace Palace's role in promoting peace and resolving disputes. I learned about the International Court of Justice (ICJ), where judges from various countries come together to settle

legal disputes between nations. The Court's commitment to upholding international law left me in awe of the power of diplomacy and justice. Furthermore, I marveled at the majestic architecture of the Peace Palace. The grandeur of these buildings reflected the significance of the work carried out within their walls. Standing before them, I felt a sense of respect for the international community's collective effort to foster global harmony and accountability. My visit to The Hague was truly a memorable experience. It broadened my perspective on global affairs, showcasing the critical role that institutions like the PCA and the ICJ play in shaping our world. I left with a newfound appreciation for the power of dialogue, cooperation, and the pursuit of justice in creating a more peaceful and just society.

Monday

Monday was the day we started our school trip and it was also my birthday. We took the bus at 7:30 and arrived in The Hague at around 15-16. There we had free time to explore the city center and eat at KFC. In the evening we had diner and went to sleep early because of the exhausting bus ride.

Tuesday

The next day we woke up at 8 and had breakfast. After that students from a partner school guided us through the city and showed us it's most famous monuments. Later we went to the Beach where we ate our meals. I had a chicken sandwich and it was pretty good. At the beach we played games like uno and beret. After beach time we went back to the hostel and had diner.

Wednesday

After breakfast we had free time for the foto challenge. At 12 we visited the Peace palace visitors centre and ate our lunch.

After that we visited the Mauritshuis museum where a tour guide explained to us the most popular paintings. We finished the day by going to the Zeehelden festival.

Thursday

That day we went on a bike ride, our destination was Delft. It took us one hour to arrive there, but it was worth it. After we arrived we had free time to buy ourselves lunch and to go shopping. Right after we visited the museum of Vermeer. Then we returned back to the hostel

Friday

The last full day we went first on a hike and then we had a picnic at the beach. After eating our lunches we played a game and then we started to pack our things to continue our hiking. Along the beach we went back in direction of the ferris wheel. The way back took us around one and half hour. When we arrived, we had either the possibility to stay at the beach, to go back to the hostel or to go to the city. Me and my friends decided to go back to the hostel but after staying there for a bit, we decided to go the city centre .

Saturday

Saturday was the day where we went back to Saarbrücken. We were in the bus for around five hours and during bus ride I slept and watched a film.



Hey ;)))

The Hague was a very beautiful trip, where you learned a lot about the culture and also had a deeper bond with your classmates.

I had my group with 6 friends, where we were 3 boys in a room. In my opinion, it is very different to have that routine of waking up together, getting ready together, going to sleep together. It is something wonderful to get to know your friends in a different way and to see how they live. I missed this routine a lot after the trip.

Also one of my highlights was the Zeehelden festival. This last moment where we stayed longer than planned because we were all together and felt the music and danced together. The atmosphere we created was stunning and I think it also made us a lot closer as a group.

On the whole I liked this trip, also because I was new in this year and had time to get to know the people a bit better.

However, I would like to criticize one point on the trip, because it was too expensive. Some people don't have the possibility to afford it for various reasons and it's a shame that these people don't get the chance to experience it. I find it sad and hope someone finds a solution to make it possible to everyone.

Nevertheless, it was a nice farewell for the 11th class, and we can now strive for the Abitur. A big thank you to the teachers who made this possible, with whom we have done great activities and have also built a stronger relationship.

Thanks J

Lois Gross

Den Haag 2023 playlist - Lea Amas and Thais Eschenbrenner:
https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3YduoZVtJm97Q6U90pHGnh?si=KympS_ouR8yTuFZBMxma3g

Amsterdam

Emilie, Emma, Laura, Lehna

Sunday - 25.06.2023: Arrival in Amsterdam

07:15 - Time to say Goodbye

- The attendance of the Students is being checked and the whole class is leaving to catch the first Train
- A last goodbye to the parents and then we leave

07:47 - The Sun is Rising - the students aren't!

- Departure of the first Train (Saarbrücken to Mannheim)
- Some of us are trying to sleep a little bit if possible



09:21 - Time to relax a bit.

- We arrive in Mannheim and go to the next train (Mannheim - Düsseldorf)
- This time we take the ICE, we have designated seats and we're spread around the whole compartment
- There is a little Bistro and a, surprisingly clean, toilet
- Again, we try to sleep, as we know how draining the day is gonna be



11:32 - First Moment of stress.

- Once we arrive in Düsseldorf we have to change trains again
- This time we have to be a lot faster as we only have a few minutes

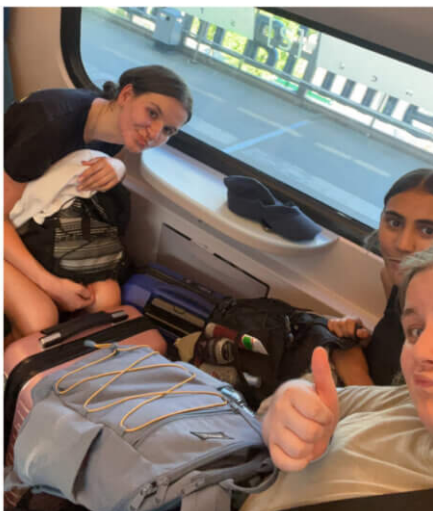
Emilie, Emma, Laura, Lehna

11:48 - The complications start

- The next train goes from Düsseldorf to Venlo
- Some of us are having trouble finding a seat, as the train is very packed and we don't have any assigned seats
- Some of us sat next to strangers and were spread all over the train
- The plan was to arrive in Venlo after about one hour but ...
 - ... at around 12:14 in Mönchengladbach all the passengers have to get off the train, which meant to change the track, to catch the replacement train
 - Next problem at 13:04 we are stranded in Kaldenkirchen. There is an emergency change and we have to wait for another 50 minutes because there is no train. At this point we're basically hopeless. If we're unlucky we might have to travel all the way back to Düsseldorf and try a new route.
 - 13:55 finally the emergency train to Menlo finally arrives and the funny part about this is that we only drive for 10 minutes.
 - 14:02 Arrival in Venlo
 - 14:06 The teachers announce, that we have a one hour wait-time in Venlo. Some are stocking up on drinks or snacks and some get themselves a little ice cream as it's the first time we have the chance to do so.

15:00 - The hell on earth!

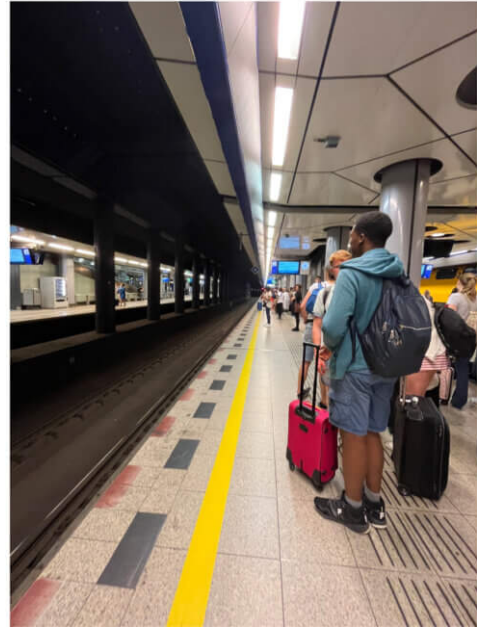
- Everyone is happy to finally take the next train, to finally cool a little bit down and have a sit.
- The train is completely full and there is no AC. So the next two hours were absolutely horrible.
- Not only did we get yelled at by a not very nice women who told us to be silent while boarding the train, when she was creating a powerpoint presentation, but it was as hot as in a sauna in this train.
- Some of us tried to sleep or better said we fell asleep because it was this muggy and hot.
- At 17:13 we arrive in Schiphol the Airport where we take the last train. So we switch tracks again and hope to arrive in Sloterdijk.



Emilie, Emma, Laura, Lehna

17:42 - *No ticket, no exit.*

- We finally arrive at our station and we're all relieved, but there is a new problem coming up our way.
- We try to go through the gates to exit the station, but our tickets don't work. The teachers find a solution and we get through the gate.



17:48 - *Our home for the next few days!*

- We arrive at the Hotel and we're waiting for Mrs. Rippel and Mrs. DiMarco to come out and give us all the instructions and informations we need to know, but the receptionist messed up the rooms up more than once)
- We had about 15 minutes to settle until we had to be at dinner.

Emilie, Emma, Laura, Lehna

18:30 - *Bon appetit!*

- We eat dinner and then have some free time until 22:00 when the teachers check in on us and tell us about the plans for the next day.
- Again we have a problem. After a very hot and muggy everyone just wants to shower and go to bed early, but there are no towels in the room. We go to the reception and ask for some but there has been an issue with the supplier and there won't be any towels until Monday 09:00 AM. Luckily some of us packed a towel, so we're able to shower and fall asleep peacefully.



Conclusion

Over all the day was very chaotic and exhausting, because most of the things didn't go as planned: first, the trains were cancelled multiple times. Then, on the last station, the gate wouldn't open and lastly, the guy at the reception in the hotel was a bit lost, so that the rooms had to be changed 2-3 times. Most of the rooms didn't receive any towels, because apparently the hotel had problems with the delivery of the towels. This actually wasn't really cool, because after 10 hours of exhausting train rides at 30°C we all would have liked to take a shower. At 18:30 we went to dinner in the hotel. They had salad, potato gratin with spinach and chicken at a buffet. The food was okay but completely cooked. Afterwards we met again at 19h10 for a meeting in front of the hotel, where the last little things were clarified and then we had "free time" until about 22h.

The return journey

The day we went back to Sarrebruck started like any other day we had spent in Amsterdam. After getting out of bed around 8:20a.m and having breakfast until around 8:50a.m , we packed our suitcases and went to the reception to check out. In front of the hotel, we took a group photo, in which everyone is more or less well recognizable, and made our way to the train.

After we were ready to leave, we went downstairs in front of the hotel at 9.30 am to gather everyone together again and to have enough time to be totally relaxed. After that we went to the train station nearby and got on the train at 10.20 am to the airport Schiphol. The journey to the first change was quite unpleasant as the train was quite full and some had to stand or sit on the floor. It wasn't too bad as this first part of the return journey didn't last long. If this train journey had been longer, however, the lack of space could have been problematic as you couldn't really do anything because you were constantly busy holding on to something to stay on your feet. It was still quite early, which had good effects on the one hand, but also bad ones on the other. It was good because you were quite relaxed as we were all still a bit sleepy. On the other hand, there was a lot going on, which was probably due to the early rush hour. I and the others were all a little depressed that the class trip was over, but also happy to finally be home again. So, you can say that the mood during this small section was quite variable and inconstant.

Then, we took the train to arrive in Bruxelles, and a third one in the direction of Luxembourg. Finally, as last part of our travel, we took a bus.

The bus we have taken from Luxembourg to Sarrebruck was a double decker bus, but the second floor was half witted, so we couldn't stay and we hit our head several times. All the people were listening to music, and we were all tired of the travel.

Amsterdam. The Netherlands. Quite different to France and Germany, especially when you cross the street, with all these (brakeless!) bikes. It has been amazing to visit this wonderful city. Even if most of its citizens where speaking Dutch, we all got a great impression, and it's all these differences that made the trip that exceptional. We've learned more about the history of Amsterdam, could visit some interesting museums, see the self portrait of Vincent Van Gogh in the Rijksmuseum, spend some time in the natural parcs of the city. Moreover, we could visit as much the new Amsterdam as the old Amsterdam, thanks three tourist guides. A complete trip, with enough free time to visit Amsterdam in our own way too! See you soon again, Amsterdam!

Yann FAHS, Alban LANZEROTI, Oscar GAND, Leon HOLZ, Hugo LARBALETRIER, Adrian KRECH