

Nicht nur ein „Sprachbad“ in Nordengland

10 Schülerinnen aus der SG 11 und BTG 11-2 der Merian-Schule verbrachten im März 2026 eine Woche mit ihren englischen Partnerinnen am *Cardinal Newman College* in Preston (*United Kingdom*). Dabei lernten sie nicht nur die Region rund um *Preston, Liverpool, Manchester* und den sogenannten *Lake District* kennen, sondern sammelten auch zahlreiche interkulturelle Erfahrungen.

Im *College*, in den Gastfamilien und im Alltag wurden viele Dinge anders gehandhabt als in Deutschland. Die beiden begleitenden Lehrerinnen (Martina Eiffler und Annette Fauth) baten die Schülerinnen, ihre Eindrücke auf Englisch festzuhalten.

Bereits im Unterricht am katholischen *Cardinal Newman College*, einem sogenannten *sixth form college*, das nach den *GCSEs* in zwei Jahren zum Abitur führt, zeigten sich deutliche Unterschiede. Sarah-Pia war besonders von der entspannten Atmosphäre beeindruckt:

"When schools in England begin at 9:00 a.m., the second lesson in Germany is almost over by that time. Surprisingly, students in England usually only have three subjects instead of ten or more like in Germany."

Laura fiel vor allem das Sicherheitssystem rund um das *College* auf:

"To enter the college grounds, we needed a special lanyard with our personal details. Without it, the security guards would not allow you to enter the campus."

Thalea war vom schuleigenen Angebot überrascht:

"A very surprising detail at Cardinal Newman College was that there was a Starbucks inside the college and you could get affordable coffee there because the prices were subsidised by the college." (Während der Prüfungszeit gibt es außerdem morgens kostenloses Frühstück für alle Schülerinnen und Schüler.)

Valerie hingegen beobachtete Unterschiede im Alltag:

"When my exchange partner and I walked the dog along a canal, I was surprised by how many people actually live on houseboats. These houseboats look small, but apparently they go deeper into

the water, so there is more space inside. In the UK, this is not unusual, partly because housing can be expensive.

I also noticed that there were many charity shops in England that support social causes. In Germany, vintage clothes are often sold for very high prices because early 2000s fashion is trendy again. However, these charity shops were more focused on supporting people rather than making a profit.

Another difference between English and German shops is that you can pay by card everywhere, even for a soft-serve ice cream. In Germany, you often still need cash, especially for small amounts."

Im Familienalltag wurden ebenfalls Unterschiede deutlich. Laura-Sophie berichtete:

"In England, my host family offered me a huge variety of things for breakfast. They made pancakes with fruit and offered me crumpets and even scones, which involves much more effort than simply serving bread. The bread itself was also quite different: it was very soft, not like the bread we have in Germany."

Und auch bei den Bezeichnungen gab es Unterschiede:

"I was also a bit confused by some of the food-related expressions. In Germany, 'tea' would simply mean drinking tea. However, in the family I stayed in, 'having tea' actually means having dinner. 'Tea time', on the other hand, really does just mean drinking tea. This confused me at first, but it shows how even everyday habits can be quite different in another culture." (Emma)

Marlene zeigte sich über die Müllentsorgung erstaunt:

"In the evening, we cooked dinner together and I found out that all the litter goes into one bin, so there is no separation. Putting all the rubbish into one bin almost felt like committing a crime as I grew up in a German household where separating waste is expected."

Und wie erwartet ist auch das Wetter anders als in Deutschland. Mila und Anastasija machten folgende Beobachtungen:

"The weather is never really as expected. Of course, everyone thinks of rain when you mention the English weather, but you never know for sure if it will suddenly start pouring, even if the forecast says otherwise."

Auch eine Wanderung im sogenannten *Lake District* (siehe Foto) kann ganz anders verlaufen:

"The 'hiking trails' usually did not look like proper hiking trails but rather like newly explored paths, which made hiking through the mountains a bit difficult but still beautiful. In addition, we saw many sheep roaming freely, especially the higher we went. In places where you would normally see fences and demarcations in Germany, there were none in the Lake District. The animals belonged to someone but could walk around freely, which allowed us to walk directly past them and made the whole experience even more special."



Als Fazit lässt sich sagen: Reisen bildet – und wer eine Reise macht, sammelt wertvolle Erfahrungen.