

My Time at Gymnasium Dionysianum

I have now finished my four weeks at Gymnasium Dionysianum. On the 10th June I was warmly welcomed by the school director, Mr Oliver Meer, and my class teacher, Mrs Stoffers. Afterwards Mrs Stoffers gave me a short tour of the school and then we went to the playground where she introduced me to my class. They were all very kind!

After I was introduced to my class, I was brought to my new classroom in which I had a seat next to my second cousin, Rosa. We shared a table with four other girls. I found this good as it meant that you could work in groups better. My first lesson at Gymnasium Dionysianum was maths which was lucky as I like maths. I really enjoyed how interactive the lessons were with lots of students being able to contribute towards the lesson. In particular how students were able to write on the blackboard. Another interesting aspect of group work was that we got to work on posters together.

One big change for me was getting up early which I found difficult but the positive side was that we only had a half day at school which meant the afternoons were free. I also noticed that I had less homework in Germany than in England.

As well as the half day at school, the other major difference for me was not having to wear a school uniform, which I enjoyed.

Some other things that were different to my normal school day were that we didn't have registration or assembly. In England, registration is when your class teacher checks which if students are present or absent. Assembly happens every morning after registration. Assembly is when either your year group or the whole school gather together and are addressed by the director or another teacher.

One of the things I enjoyed most was 'Hitzefrei' or having time off school as it was extremely hot! This is a sensible idea as it is difficult to concentrate when it is that hot.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome and the people who made me feel included.

Lucy Smith from Cambridge, England

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