

### Exeter Vienna grockles infiltrating Exeter

Recently our grade went on a language trip to Exeter in the United Kingdom which I view as extremely valuable. Living with host families for the whole week and even going to school with native English teachers we now know what grockles are and much more.

Arriving in England the host families were of course our biggest concern, as we would have to spend the complete trip with them. It was a relieve meeting the nice woman, who was the only member of the household. Actually speaking and holding a conversation with her was crucial to fully making use of the opportunity we were given. Especially in the evening during dinner two classmates heavily engaged in talking and finding out about differences about our countries. In terms of our food preferences our host was very understanding. Through the internet our generation already has a good grasp on English so gaining confidence in continuously conversing in English around the clock with natives may give us a finishing touch in fine-tuning this skill.

By bus we got to our small but comfortable school building every morning. A 90-minute lesson followed by a 30-minute break was something I came to enjoy over the week. Our teachers were incredibly interesting and made class seem even shorter than in Vienna. In smaller groups the lessons were very interactive getting to talk more. In Exeter we tourists are known as “grockles”. Halfway through the language trip a project day arrived, on which we had to come up with questions we would have to ask residents in central Exeter. As I am not very fond of speaking with strangers this task seemed impossible. Finally mustering the courage to confront strangers we found out, that they were very polite. Right after just talking with the host families this activity improved our English the most.

Lastly this trip did not only serve to improve our English but also enjoy and learn about this country. With a tour guide we wandered around relevant places. For me our trip to Dartmoor, whose scenery inspired the famous writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, occupies the top of my list. The fairy-tale like landscape put me in a rather hypnotized state.

In conclusion, even though Exeter is not a well-known city in the United Kingdom, it turned out to be a helpful experience to further improve one’s English. Not only learning as students but also exploring the country as grockles is an event you should not miss out on.