

Blog about the 2nd international visit from 18th-24th October

The second international meeting was held in the week from 18th to 24th October as it had previously been arranged and the students were eager to meet their friends from the 1st international meeting in Holice and show them their city and the beautiful places included in the programme.

The students met their Check partners at the coach station early in the morning while Lithuanians arrived late in the evening at the airport and they were also met by their Bulgarian partners. They were put up in families of our students and given a warm-hearted welcome.

The first thing on Monday morning was to show our guests round our school to see how and where our students study. After the teachers had met our headmistress we all get down to work as it was one of the busiest days of the visit.

The day started with the Bulgarian presentation about carpet making which focused on the preparation rather than the actual process of weaving. While making their tour round the school the students saw an improvised exhibition of different tools used to make carpets and later they could easily recognize those tools in the presentation. The participants in the workshop were asked to solve a puzzle of a model carpet and then colour a pattern used in carpets and if they were observant they would have noticed that one of the Bulgarian girls was wearing a cardigan with typical carpet motifs. After the break the Check students shared their presentation about Litomysl and falconing followed by an interactive part in which the rest of the students had to identify different kinds of falcons and explain how they are used today.

In the afternoon the Lithuanians acquainted us with the old tradition of cross making showing different examples of crosses and the places where they can be found and the legends about them.

The day was rounded off by a presentation about Ivanovo stone hewn churches and a song sung by two of our girls in the authentic way Bistrishki babi sing it.

Tuesday was the day of the tour of Sofia which started from St. Nedelya Square in the centre of city. Although the weather was a bit cold for October the students were enthusiastic and both guests and hosts enjoyed the walk. The Bulgarian students had prepared a short talk about the sights we visited and some of them acted as professional guides. The students found the visit to the Parliament most rewarding because they had the opportunity to feel the atmosphere of the place where the most crucial problems are solved as well as sit in place of the chairman on parliament rostrum.

On Wednesday we spend most time on activities at school. The Check students shared their presentation about nature and briefed us on the level of pollution of the flora around their school. The guests from Lithuania presented their capital city Vilnius showing some of the most important places of interest and buildings which are similar to buildings in Sofia and Prague and sang a folk song from each region of their country. The Bulgarian presentation about Srebarna was followed by a quiz and crossword in which the students had to find the names of plants and animals which live only on the territory of Srebarna Nature Reserve .

In the afternoon Mrs. Lazarova, the principal of the school, opened the International Evening and the audience-teachers, students and parents enjoyed the dances and sang along to the participants.

On Thursday we travelled to Plovdiv by train and despite the delay of two hours on the way back to Sofia the trip left unforgettable memories in us. The students were guided by their Bulgarian partners through the city, walked along the narrow cobbled streets of the old town, marvelled at the imposing amphitheatre, still in use today. They had a short break in the garden of the Ethnographic Museum and then walked to the highest point in the old town from where they had a wonderful view of the whole city. In the afternoon the students had some free time before leaving to explore the city on their own.

The trip to the magnificent Seven Rila Lakes on the last day of the international visit was part of doing the nature activity. Equipped with warm clothes and comfortable shoes, part and parcel of going high up in the mountains, we took the notorious chair lift from Panichishte to the starting point of our trek. The beginning was the most trying part as we had to put a bit more effort into climbing up a steep hill but none of the students gave up. We hiked along the Dry Ridge that offered a great panorama of the lower of the Seven Lakes and finally got to the Kidney Lake where the students did the nature activity. There they conducted an experiment examining the water purity using a variety of chemicals. Their goal was to find proof of the preservation of the lakes' waters natural state in the area.

On Saturday the students said goodbye to each other looking forward to the next meeting in Rokiskis.