



Montag

Hallo! Und ein kleines Update aus Deutschland...

Having enjoyed the weekend with our host families, we came together again as a group today to experience a typical German school day and get a feel for Freising town centre. Some clear differences straight away: no uniform, an 8am start and a general consensus that the maths lesson was really hard!

Meanwhile, Mr Furnival and Mrs Mason attended the opening of a conference marking Camerloher Gymnasium's commitment to a national initiative here in Germany: *School without Racism - School with Courage*.

It was also lovely to compare notes from Sunday and hear about music concerts, lake visits and even quick trips across the border into Austria.

Four of our German exchange partners kindly gave up their time to show us around the school. Highlights included the climbing wall, the chicken coop (complete with recently hatched residents) and the surprising number of pianos that seem to accumulate in a school where everybody plays an instrument.

For anyone wanting a reminder of what our partner school is like, here is the video I shared at our first meeting earlier in the year:

[Partner School Video](#)

Later in the morning, we walked into Freising to explore the town. We learned a little about its long history before visiting the impressive cathedral. Its rococo interior includes a ceiling painted to make it look and feel like a huge dome. Two notable Bishops of Freising have distinguished themselves over the years: Korbinian is said to have reprimanded a bear before engaging its services as long-distance porter to carry luggage to Rome. More recently, a certain Josef Ratzinger also travelled that way (no bear) when he became Pope Benedict XVI. More big churches to follow this week so stay tuned!

We made full use of the opportunity to enjoy the German institution of *Kaffee und Kuchen*. It was both pleasing and intriguing to see students making such varied culinary choices: some opted for *Spezi* (a popular German soft drink that combines the best bits of Coke with the best bits of Fanta), traditionalists for ice cream, but a kebab and at least one punnet of gooseberries were also in circulation.

One advantage of an early start is an early finish. Staff and students parted company at 1pm, after which poor Mr Furnival returned (somewhat reluctantly) to Frau Frantzke's office to catch up on work. I am told there was then a large group outing to Therme Erding, a vast swimming-pool complex with 40 pools and 28 slides. Not that I'm bitter about missing out or anything, but what has Therme Erding got that Backwell Leisure Centre hasn't? I guess I'll find out tomorrow.

Tuesday will take us to Neuschwanstein - which is basically Tyntesfield with a few more towers, right?

[A little more about Neuschwanstein](#)

Viele Grüße und bis morgen,

Herr Furnival und Frau Mason

