



Donnerstag

Hallo zusammen!

A change of pace this morning as we spent a leisurely few hours in lessons before ambling into the centre of Freising to visit the town museum. Some students headed off to history first thing; others went to chemistry. Mr Furnival and Mrs Mason stationed themselves in the staffroom beside a delightful tray of well-priced, high-quality sandwiches. Perhaps someone could let Aspens know about *belegte Kürbissemmeln* and honesty boxes?

At half past nine, we met Frau Steffan and walked into town. It was lovely to hear about what students had been getting up to with their partners. What distinguishes an exchange from any other trip is the unique insight that comes from being immersed in family life. Sharing the small, everyday moments that might seem hugely significant often sows precious seeds and leaves lasting memories. The *Biergarten* the previous evening had been a particular hit, providing an opportunity to sample a perennial exchange favourite: *Käsespätzle*.

I was also very proud of the students who told me how they had taken turns to read aloud from a German textbook to their German classmates. Numbers and dates are a right faff! Meanwhile, Frau Frantzke was away on a side quest in Dillingen. As the saying goes, what happens in Dillingen stays in Dillingen.

We were shown around Freising's *Stadtmuseum* by a friendly and knowledgeable guide. In the space of just 45 minutes, we travelled from examining archaeological evidence of early Neolithic settlement to learning about contemporary protests against a proposed third runway at Munich Airport. We heard about the pan-European connections between monastic scriptoria, while Mr Furnival became somewhat bogged down in the inconsistencies of German spelling before the establishment of the Council for German Orthography.

There were valiant efforts from many members of the group to translate some fast-moving and rather complex slides about coinage. Elliot gave the wheel of history a commanding spin. George and Alana summoned Korbinian levels of courage in taming two bears. Meanwhile, the colouring corner proved extremely popular.

Students enjoyed some free time in Freising, which is definitely a quieter and more laid-back place for some favourite exchange pursuits: sitting in cafés, shopping for matching outfits, or sipping *Spezi*. We took the obligatory group photos for posterity and, when we got back to school, Mr Furnival had a lovely chat with some German participants from years gone by - proof, if any more were needed, of the close bonds and lasting connections forged between Backwell and Camerloher through our exchange programme.

Bis morgen!

