



- Biotechnology in our life -

## SCHÜLERBERICHTE PROJEKTTREFFEN 2016/2017

des von der Europäischen Union unterstützten internationalen Projektes

**Zweites Projekttreffen:** 04. – 09. Februar 2017  
St. Neots  
England

*Report from Katy, Scott, Joe and Emily  
St. Neots Learning Partnership*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the Erasmus Project was held in St Neots, England from 4<sup>th</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup> February. All of the English hosts were very excited to have the privilege of hosting everyone and especially excited to see our friends again!



This week was a tough week as our posters needed to be completed ahead of our trip to Xàtiva, however we, as the hosts, wanted to

make sure the evenings were relaxed and fun and to make sure everyone got the most out of their stay in England. Some nights were spent in pubs and restaurants as well as trips to our local bowling alley and a trampoline park. Even trips to London were arranged by host families to ensure the best time!



On **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February**, our eagerly awaited visitors arrived and soon settled into their host families houses ready for a busy day on Sunday!

Our week began on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> with coffee and biscuits, followed by a short introduction from Dr Miller to welcome everyone to our school, Longsands Academy. After catching up with everyone and reuniting with our groups, we were all set to work on our posters. Lunch came around very quickly and everybody's hard work was soon rewarded with A LOT of pizza! Following lunch, Dr Miller gave a presentation about the company 'Amgen' to us in order to prepare us for what was to follow on Monday. It was very interesting and gave us a deep insight into what we would be working on together with Amgen on Monday.

After a long hard Sunday at school, we were given a tour of St Neots by our very own, Dr Miller, the tour was a bit hectic but didn't fail to deliver everyone a slice of St Neots' history (even the hosts learnt something!).

On **Monday 6<sup>th</sup>**, we stayed at Longsands Academy to take part in a practical study on behalf of our project's industry partner called Amgen. We took part in the Amgen Biotech

experience using genetic engineering processes used to make insulin. As well as using gel electrophoresis and having the chance to look at how our own DNA is made up. Everyone was very intrigued to see the detailed results and it was a truly enriching activity. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience and weren't at all phased by the



complexity of such a subject despite it being in, for many of the group, their second language. Once school had finished we took a coach to Cambridge University where we heard presentations from two PhD students who spoke about their individual studies that included looking at cancer developments within the University itself.

The next day (**Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup>**) we spent the morning at Ernulf Academy (our partner school in the town) where we took part in an Environmental Monitoring workshop which involved

looking at how our water is contaminated by different sources from businesses and factories and concluding our groups ideas within posters. Every group got thoroughly involved and we had some very interesting discussions.



We then made a trip to Bury St Edmunds for the afternoon. Students were allowed to explore the city and, of course, pick up a coffee or something to eat! After an hour, we made our way to the city's famous Green King Brewery where we were given a guided tour, right from the learning about the fermentation tanks on the ground floor, to the roof top viewing area over the entire pipeline of the brewery as well as across the city.

And what's a guided tour without some free samples? However, to the disappointment of some students over 18, we weren't given samples of beer, instead raw hops, one of the main ingredients of beer (I don't think many of us would recommend trying it!).

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** was a busy day, like any other, which started with us gathering in the library for a speech by a representative from a company who look at medical drug development, potential drug molecules and the process of testing drugs. We were then given a couple of hours to finish our posters...the pressure was on! Luckily everyone completed their posters and



we even had time to spare for a game of charades! But, trying to act out Gel electrophoresis is as hard as it sounds! During the afternoon, we had a tour around Cambridge and saw

some of the university grounds! To the teachers delight, we also visited the Cavendish Laboratory, where the structure of DNA was determined by Watson and Crick.

The final day (**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup>**) was a very emotional and pungent day... A prompt arrival from everybody at school meant that we were soon on our way to Anglian Water in Leighton Linlade. Anglian Water is a large water company who supply water and water recycling services to just over 6 million homes and businesses, right from the Humber in Hull to the Thames Estuary and from Buckinghamshire to Lowestoft on the East Coast of England. This sites purpose is to filter the waste from our toilets (hence the pungent smell!) until it was clean enough to be put back into our local river systems. Despite the smell, it was very interesting to discover the complexity behind something you never really think about!

Once we had returned from Leighton Linlade it was time to say a BIG thank you to everyone who participated in our week in St Neots and our goodbyes to the students from Italy, Spain and The Netherlands.

On Friday, the German students departed in the morning, followed by the Estonian students in the afternoon. All farewells were very emotional however it was more of a 'see you soon' as it wouldn't be long until everyone would reunite in Xàtiva, Spain for the final week of the project together!

On behalf of all involved, I would like to dedicate this report to the memory of Dr Sarah Miller whose enthusiasm and commitment towards the Erasmus Project enabled us to be part of such an amazing opportunity.

We'll remember these moments, with fondness in our hearts and smiles on our faces,

Katy, Scott, Joe, Emily