

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, the 20 pupils involved in the German Exchange collected their exchange partners, who had travelled from Gymnasium Kirchseeon, just outside Munich, from E2 classroom and brought them home to live with them for a week. Anna stayed with me. The next day, a Friday, the Methody and German pupils all met up at the Whitla Hall and took the bus to Mount Stewart. During the visit, we were given a tour of the house and told about the history of the National Trust property. We also took part in many fun team building exercises. There were den building exercises and we were taught how to make small campfires. We could stop at the shop and everyone brought their own packed lunches. Saturday and Sunday were spent in families and it was up to us to choose what to show our partners. My partner and I went to watch an ice hockey match and also visited the Ulster Folk Museum. On Monday, the Methody students stayed in school while the German students visited Crumlin Road Jail and took part in a City Walking Tour. Similarly on Tuesday, the Methody students stayed in school while the German students visited Stormont and the Titanic Museum. On Wednesday, everyone boarded the bus again to visit Carrick-a-Rede and the Giants Causeway. We travelled across the rope bridge and spent some time on the island before heading to the Causeway. There was an audio tour of the Giant's Causeway based on the folklore and everyone visited the shop. We all arrived back to school at 5pm and our German partners spent their last night with us. Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October was the final day of the exchange. Our German partners were allowed to spend the day in class with their exchange partners, until it was time for them to leave for the airport. I enjoyed this experience and am disappointed not to have been able to travel to Munich, because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Emma Kavanagh F3