

Reflections on the Student Exchange Programme

When we were informed about accompanying our students to Germany for the student exchange programme, we were a bit apprehensive as it was our first trip to Europe. We came with an open mind accepting it as a challenge and to take things as they came to us.

We were pleasantly surprised to receive such a warm welcome by the host parents and staff at the Scheffel-Gymnasium. Our trip was like a roller coaster ride with lots of fun-filled excursions, learning experiences, socializing and cultural exchanges.

In this short duration of 10 days we had a great opportunity to learn about the geography, language, food habits, currency, economics and politics of Germany and Switzerland. We were surrounded by unspoiled nature and it was overwhelming to see the Black Forest, the river Rhine and the majestic Swiss Alps.

It was also a great pleasure to meet the Mayor of Bad Säckingen in the castle where he hosted a reception especially for the exchange students.

Another highlight of the trip in terms of entertainment was the Big Band Night, performed by students of the Scheffel-Gymnasium and the recital as well as a demonstration of the church organ at the Fridolinmünster. This was a special treat for us as a lot of the local people too had never visited or witnessed this.

We are especially grateful and thankful to our accommodating hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Tritschler, to Ms. Siefert, Mr. Lienemann and the host families who took extremely good care of all of us, and all the staff who went out of their way and shared their valuable time with us.

We now look forward to having the German students and teachers to visit India and experience our rich and vibrant culture.

Mrs. Anjali Castellino and Mrs. Sumathi Sanakaranarayanan