

## LONDON TRIP OCTOBER 2018

During the tour week in October, 39 students from S3 travelled to London on an L2 excursion packed with educational activities.

On the train, Ramunè played a wonderful version of the song 'Riptide' on her ukulele and put everybody in good mood for the arrival at St. Pancras International. Then it was Luca and Martina's turn to play some piano at the station before the group headed to the hotel to drop off the luggage.

The first place on the agenda was Hyde Park to see Speakers' Corner in action. After watching some speakers, we found a quiet spot (at least we thought it was quiet) to carry out our planned speaking activity for the group, but soon we were spotted by many people in the crowd and before we knew it, we were having the real Speakers' Corner experience with heckling and everything.

All of our six speakers were superb – two students spoke for feminism and what they see as important equality issues still to be achieved (Giulia and Nicole), two students spoke against feminism and how they feel it is having a divisive effect in society (Alice and Matilde) - then the final two students (Martina and Gabriele) explained why they do not support the death penalty. All speakers made strong arguments and spoke with such great confidence, everyone was impressed.

The weather was superb, so there was time to relax in the park for a while before heading to the city centre for the evening. After dinner, we went to the cinema to watch 'The First Man' and learn all about Neil Armstrong's remarkable journey to becoming the first man on the moon.

The next morning was the walking tour of London starting in Trafalgar Square, continuing to Buckingham Palace, Westminster Bridge, London Eye and Downing Street and finishing in Covent Garden where everyone could explore the shops and listen to the great street artists. After dinner, we went to the first of the theatre shows – Les Misérables – with all its amazing songs such as 'I dreamed a dream', 'Stars' and 'Bring Him Home' - everyone was on their feet at the end for a standing ovation.



Day three started with a trip to Harrods to find out if it is as expensive as they say – yes it is – the next step was to visit two museums – the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum where everyone enjoyed an hour in the wonder lab – back to Leicester Square for dinner and off to what was the highlight for many students, the musical Aladdin – another standing ovation at the end.

The last day was a shopping morning in Oxford Street and then it was time to go to the train station with lots of bags and return to Brussels. It was great to see everyone speaking so much English in lots of different contexts and hopefully this will lead to greater motivation to learn even more now. Well done to everybody for keeping up with the busy agenda and for representing EEB2 so well at all times.

A special mention for the success of the group going through Tube Stations – all the training for this paid off – well done to everybody, the system worked perfectly – and another special mention for the students who climbed the 193 steps in Covent Garden instead of taking a lift: you are really brave!

Colm Kehoe