

Heartbeat



Tuesday, 26 April

Issue 26

Exchange students swap Crosby for the Netherlands

On Sunday, April 3, a group of Y12 pupils and Mrs Stewart departed from John Lennon Airport as part of the Comenius Exchange initiative, writes Peter Riley (12D). We got to the school in Drachten at about 12.30am local time and arrived to a fantastic reception from our host students.

On Monday morning, each group had to do a small talk/presentation about our school. After this we were put into groups with students from the Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Poland. We played some games to break the ice and get to know one another, such as, 'guess the celebrity'.

After a short break, we were paired off. In each pair, you had to get to know the other person as well as you could in five minutes – sort of like speed dating, just without the dating. We then had to present our partner to the group so they could all get to know him or her.

After lunch, we went on a puzzle search around the town of Drachten by bike. We had to find answers to questions and hand them in to the teachers.

This was fun, as we got to discover the local area, and because various members of our group got lost in transit so we had to go hunting for them as well.

Tuesday was entitled, Masters of Sport. Students from each country had to come up with a game that is played in their country.

We had some very interesting games, such as a Frisian game that involves tying a piece of string around your waist with a nail on the end and getting that nail into a bottle on the floor without using your hands.

The German game was Musical Chairs and the Polish game was British Bulldog



but they didn't call it that.

The Italian game was called Handkerchief. It was a brilliant game. One person stood at the end in the middle of two parallel lines of teams and said a number.

If your number was called, you had to run into the middle and get the handkerchief before your opponent. If you got it back to your line without being touched, you won the point. If your opponent tagged you once you had it, they got the point.

In the afternoon, we tried a traditional Frisian sport called Fierljeppen. That translates into English as Ditch Jumping. Basically, you used a pole to propel yourself over a ditch. Out of the 80 of us on the Exchange, only two people fell in. Wednesday was called, Masters of Art. In the morning, we played a game called Werewolves.

This was a game of lying. There were villagers and werewolves but no one knew

who was who.

The villagers had to find and kill the werewolves and the werewolves had to kill all of the villagers without getting caught.

After this, we learned how to Photoshop from a very cool teacher who looked a bit like Einstein.

This was good as well, as he showed us some very funny examples of Photoshop. In the afternoon, we had a workshop to learn about copyright and Trademark.

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The week in brief

Staff and students are in College for just three days this week. The SVP group's Feed the Homeless initiative continues tomorrow. The Year 13 Cookery Club also takes place tomorrow and the College is closed on Friday due to the Royal Wedding.

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We then went to draw on a tee shirt. We had to try and copy a great work of art by an artist from any of the countries on the Exchange and, then, on the back we could do what we wanted. This was great fun also.

Thursday was, for me, the best day by far as we went to Amsterdam. It was absolutely incredible.

First of all, we went to a museum called the Rijksmuseum. There are famous exhibitions of art there by Van Gogh, Rembrandt, Vermeer and many other famous artists. After this, we went to a photography museum called FOAM. Both of these museums were very interesting and enjoyable. After those visits, we had two hours wandering around the beautiful city. Some people decided to go to the Hard Rock Café, which was brilliant. Many of us,

though, just went for a wander. It was an absolutely fantastic day!

Friday was also brilliant but as it was the last day, it was tinged with sadness.

We spent the morning preparing for the National Item. This was a presentation of England (well, of Liverpool) to an audience of students and parents on Friday night. After this, we got split into groups again. Some of us worked on presentations of each day and some of us worked on collating a newspaper/magazine of the week. In the afternoon, we were allowed to go back to our host's house to prepare food for the National Buffet that night. We made strawberries and cream, scones, cup cakes and cucumber sandwiches.

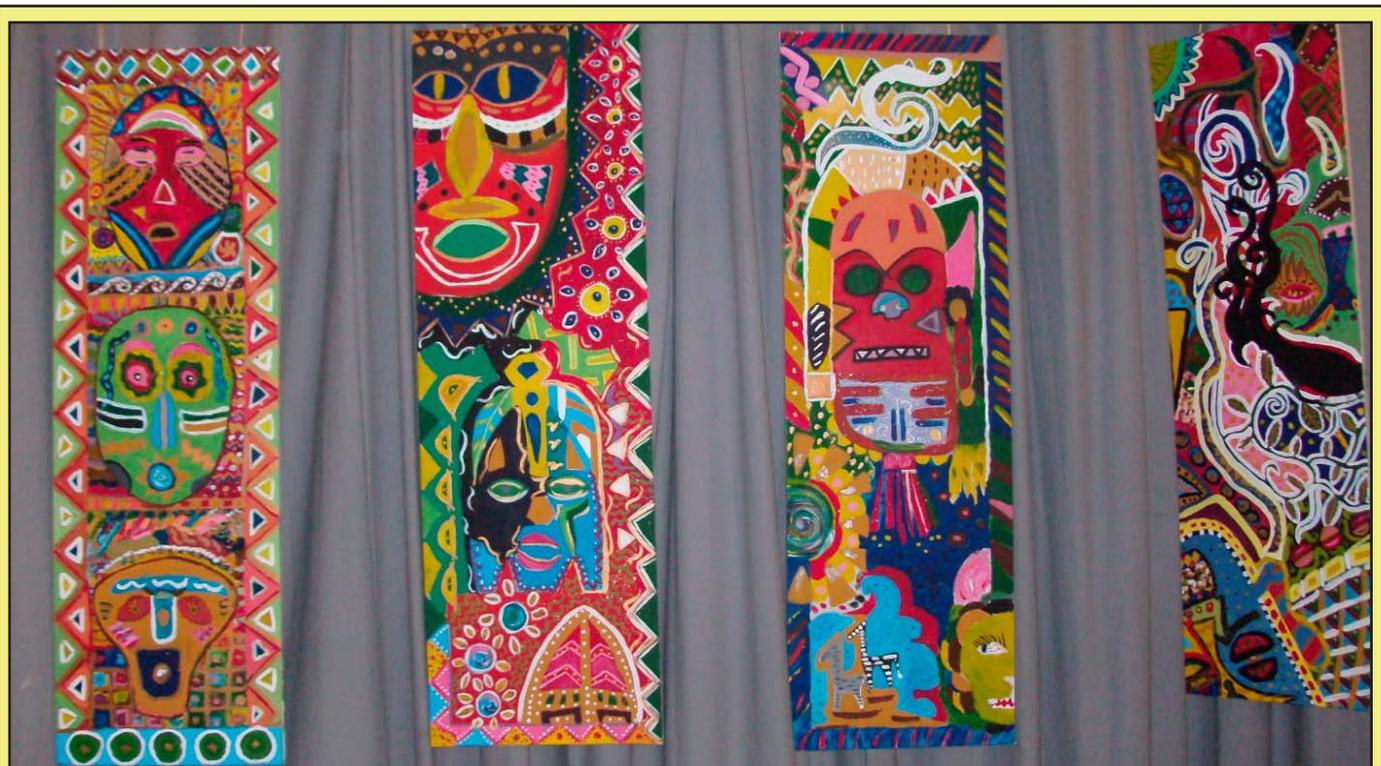
On the Friday night, we had the National presentations. All of these were brilliant, particularly the German presentation, as it ended up with a Conga line going around

the hall!

The night ended in sadness, though, as we had to say goodbye to all the brilliant friends we had made during the week from all of the countries.

Then, all too quickly, Saturday came around and it was time for us to go. It was an incredibly sad moment as we had to say goodbye to our Dutch friends who had hosted us for a week and who came to our school in November. There were a few tears, but mostly just sadness. All in all, though, it was a thoroughly enjoyable week and we all loved it.

Next week, find out what our Exchange pupils who went to Germany got up to.



African art is unmasked

Pupils in Year 9 were asked to contribute in an African art project recently, where we drew African masks and designs on a canvas, write *Phoebe Walker & Abigail Laidlow, (both 9H)*.

We used bold shapes and patterns so it stands out and used different bright colours that are eye-catching and clash with each other but also compliment them too. All pupils had a go of either drawing or painting and then the finished result went up on display at Rags to Riches and in St Edward Hall.

The project was fun and very enjoyable and gave us a chance to experience different cultures.

