

# Students knock about Wales

“Look there! Let's help it.” The students run down the rocks to follow a little goat. An angry raven is attacking it but the students scare the raven away and so they save the life of the little goat. Some wild goats live in the mountains of Wales because the farmers released them in the past. Today they have only sheep on their farms. It's Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> April, the first day in Wales for the 3B and 3C from the OfL Auer in South Tyrol. The students are tired because of the long journey and the short night. And now they have to go up on a small mountain. “We had an incredible experience up there,” a student said. On the way down they have a look at a farm.



Buck Thomas, organic farmer



Shetland Ponies eat the rushes. Buck doesn't use herbicides.

In the middle of the field a big bull is lying on the ground. “If the bull stands up, I will run very quickly away from here,” the old farmer says. A few minutes later the bull is standing up and the students run away! “You don't have to be afraid, the bull is calm, it was only a joke!”



Welsh Black Cattle

On the next day the students have a look at a slate museum, an “Electric Mountain” and a wind farm.



Florian is splitting slate (Welsh Slate Museum, Llanberis)



It's 11 o'clock pm on Saturday, time to go to the rooms in the hostel and to be quiet. The silence lasts only for a couple of minutes! Then the students sneak out of their rooms and 15 students congregate in room number 16. What a muddle! It takes a while, until one of the teachers comes to sort out the chaos.

One of the objectives of this trip is to get to know more about the vegetation and the landscape of Wales. It's Sunday and the students go to the beach to have a look at the vegetation on the sand dunes. With a special tool the students classify the plants growing there. “The vegetation is not the same as in South Tyrol,” Andreas observes.



Which plants grow in the swamp? Someone has to find out ...

On the next day the students go to Caernarfon to look at an old castle built by the English king Edward I. They also have time for a stroll through the town. And in the afternoon the visit of the agriculture college is on programme. “Between our college and theirs are lots of differences. They have a lot of sheep, cows and pigs. And they have an enormous park with old trees, little rivers and ... a palace. We have a castle, some animals but apples and grapes too,” says Manuel.



Caernarfon Castle, Caernarfon



View from the castle keep



Walk through the park of the Agricultural college



Armin and the squeaking piglet



Holstein Friesian cattle on the meadow of the college

On the last day before the return the students have to go on the top of the highest mountain in Wales, the Snowdon. At the beginning of the hike some of them say to Pete, their tutor: "In Wales there are only hills, no mountains and so it will be an easy walk." But already at halfway the first students want to give up. "I'm sorry Pete, you're

right: In Wales there are mountains, not hills,” says Florian. On the top of the mountain all are happy and Jakob speaks out what everybody thinks: “We survived it. Well done, guys!”



On the way to the top of the Snowdon



Rest on top of the Snowdon

Back in the hostel a student suddenly falls screaming to the floor: He has dislocated his kneecap and so he must spend the last night at the hospital.

It's Wednesday and the South Tyrolean students are on their way to Manchester. They can hardly wait till the guided tour of the city is finished because they want to storm the shops in order to boost the local economy. After a week in the Welsh countryside everybody is eager to spend their pounds on souvenirs ... and clothes!



Manchester city centre



Finally, after buying a lot of things, drinking coffee at Starbuck´s and having lunch at the Hardrock Café, the students fly home.

All of the students think that they had a lot of fun and that the money was spent very well!!

Maximilian Widmann, 3B



The 3B on Harlech Beach