

Open Minds Open Borders

I was very fortunate to be able to take part in this amazing experience from January 21st to January 27th 2018.

The family that hosted me was really nice and excited for me to be with them and I really bonded with my host sister Cleo.

During the week that I was attending Bennett Memorial Diocesan School I had the opportunity to learn and do new things that I wouldn't have had the chance to do at my school in Italy.

I really enjoyed going to London Tuesday and visiting parts of the city I had never been to before that weren't very touristy like the financial district. During this day trip we were divided into groups of three and we were given a photography camera, an animation camera and a video camera that we used to collect footage for the theme Open Minds Open Borders. Some of the subjects we captured were modern and older architecture, different cultures, different types of food and different identities.

Over the course of the week I got to know the girls in my group really well, Eloise and Mia but the London trip was a good way to get to know people from other groups better too.

The days following the London trip we were taught by the school teachers, who were all very nice, how to edit the photos we took on Photoshop, how to edit the video footage and the animation pictures on Final Cut Pro and how to do a mono print. I had never done any of these things before but I found out I really enjoy doing them and I think I may continue doing them as a hobby in my spare time.

I think the whole Open Minds Open Borders theme was achieved not only by taking pictures and videos of certain topics but by collaborating and meeting new people whilst overcoming the language and culture barrier.

The trip was also a good way to learn and understand the British school system, that is profoundly different than the Italian one I grew up with.

The final day on the project was my favorite. In the morning until 11am we went to school and finished editing our video, but after that the teachers told us that if we stuck together we were free to go to town and do whatever we wanted until the exhibition started at 4 pm in the shopping center.

I was happy to find some of the friends I made from the Bennett School at the mall food court so in the afternoon we stuck with them. This is where I bonded the most with the Bennett Students because I got a glimpse of what they are like outside of school and I really liked it. We spent the afternoon playing a card game and browsing through shops until 4pm.

It was really nice to see that all the effort we put into this project paid off. Seeing all the work we had done in the exhibit room was amazing and I knew then that the project had hit the nail in the head with Open Minds Open Borders theme.

I'm really grateful I was chosen to be a part of this project because I met and made lifelong lasting connections with a lot of amazing people. I'm already talking to some of them about coming to visit me in Italy and going on a skiing trip !

I also got to know the three other students from my school better and shared an experience with them as well.

Overall it was an amazing week filled with new things to do and I couldn't have spent it in a better way.