



EXCHANGE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

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When and where

- From January to June 2021
- Second part of fourth year in Italy
- Latest 2 trimesters during fifth year in the Irish High School

- I lived in Longford: a small city in the Irish Midlands
- Templemichael College, about 800 students, in the city centre



A very important personal experience



- Both happiness and apprehension
- My Irish family: Joanna, David, 2 kids, a German girl Hannah, a dog in a big house with a garden and a shed
 - I was part of the family
 - Great support anytime
- All was new: language, life, habits, family, friends, school

About the Irish school system

- The school is divided in 6 academic years
- There are about 15/18 students per class to guarantee an interactive relationship among teachers and students.
- Students actively participate. Teachers are helpful and friendly.
- Students study a mandatory range of subjects plus 4 subjects chosen among those proposed by the school.
- I appreciate that it is possible to choose the subjects you are going to study.
- Classes and classmates change every lesson.
- Schools have periods of 40 minutes each.



My subjects

Core/Mandatory

- English
- Maths
- Accounting instead of Irish
- Career Guidance
- Social, Personal and Health Education
- Physical Education
- ICT

Optional

- History
- Geography
- Business
- LCVP (Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme)

School time

- We spent January and February in lockdown, in March the school reopened.
- Lessons were from Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 3.40 pm, I got back home at 5 pm.
- The time table seems heavier than ours, but it is more effective and productive and the study at home allows to keep in mind the notions of the day.
- There was a lot of talking between teachers and students.
- Most of the work was done at school.
- Homework was given every day and corrected the following lesson.
- At the end of the trimester there were written Exams regarding all the covered topics.



TO SUM UP...

I think this experience was a very positive one



During these months I learnt to:

- Speak English with more confidence, using idioms and common sayings
- Study in a different way, focused on the main aspects of the topic rather than the details
- Write in a synthetic and effective way
- Talk differently: keeping my voice down, talking more slowly
- Most of all, get to know a new culture, new habits and a new school life

Unfortunately Covid didn't allow me to live this experience completely