

Buseck

SHOOTING SHORT FILMS

Topic: Threats to Democracy

In this LTTA students could enjoy accommodation in host families, because there were no further limitations caused by Corona. Instantly, this made the international guests feel more welcome, because they all had a German partner whom they had known through Personal Information Sheets, which had been exchanged before the meeting, through chats on Whatsapp and skype and by the fact, that they were picked up at Frankfurt International Airport by hosting families. An exception was the Croatian group: Due to the fact that the Croatian students are students with special needs, they required special attendance by their teachers. As that could not be provided in host families, the Croatian students and their teachers stayed in a hotel. However, in order to make sure they were included into all social processes of the week, each of them had a German partner, who was looking after him/her during the day, stayed with him/her during the activities and tried to help, to explain whenever necessary.

On the first day at school some German students gave small groups of foreign students a guided tour through the IGS Busecker Tal, introducing them all the different parts of the building and the outside areas. Here, the flock of sheep, owned and looked after by the IGS and its students, plus some nice games, had a major ice breaking effect on the international guests.

Threats to Democracy were the topic of this meeting, which was being pursued all through the week. First the group watched the different films about threats to democracy and discussed the making of and the contents of the films. Then they talked about the storyboards, considering possible twists and changes. At Giessen University (JLU) the students' knowledge about threats to democracy was widened by a workshop of political scientist Mrs Luana Sommer, focusing on the effects of fake news and various ways of political propaganda threatening democratic societies. This topic was dominant, when the group visited Mr Ranft, the mayor of Buseck. With him different threats to democracy in the modern society were being discussed. In addition, also local political and economic problems were mentioned to give the guests an idea about the village and what people are concerned about in this area. On a trip to Frankfurt am Main the group visited the Museum for the History of Films to show them how films and filming techniques changed and developed during the last 120 years. A professional workshop "How to act properly in front of a camera" by professional actor Mr S. Songin taught the students how to move and speak adequately in front of a camera. Guided tours through Giessen, Frankfurt and the medieval town of Marburg introduced the group to the history, the architecture - and the beauty of this part of Germany. At the end of the week the group made plans for workshops, which were supposed to bring the results of this meeting to the students and staff of each school and to a wider public. They also planned the meeting in Zagreb, which had been decided to deal with 'Current problems in relationships among teenagers'.