

Journey to London

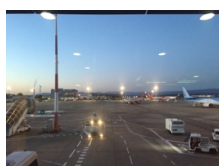
First I opened one eye slowly, then I managed to open my second and looked at my alarm clock. It showed 3.38. First I didn't realize, that this day was the day, our class, the G2D from the NKSA, would travel to London.

3.45: Most of us had to get up that early. Some a little bit earlier, some a little bit later. Some of us didn't even sleep at home, because there wasn't any possibility to get to the ones who drove. It was hard. I packed the final little things and then I waited for Valentin's father to pick me up at 4.15. We had to organize a driving service, because there wasn't any train that early in the morning. Some of our parents were so kind and drove us in little groups to Basel. Like that, we made our way to the airport. It took about an hour to get there.



5.30: At the airport, our class stood at the departure terminal. We were all excited. Some were fresh and ready for the day, others still seemed asleep. The first ones already started to share their experiences about their spring holidays. Ms. Eckert and Ms. Scheuble officially welcomed us to our project week in London. They informed us, how we had to check-in and how the journey should pass. They informed us also that, we had to stay together in a group and that Stefani could have problems at the border, because she didn't get the VISA she needed. After that, there was nothing that could have kept us back. We were on the run. Everybody got, more or less fast, through the security and we made our way to our gate.

7.00: Some of you may ask yourselves why we travelled so early. We wanted to travel as cheap as possible, so we booked the first EasyJet flight to London in the morning from Basel and not from Zurich. Some minutes after 7.00 we started in Basel and at least the ones who didn't sleep already enjoyed the beautiful start in the morning. The flight was very comfortable and we even arrived at London Gatwick Airport some minutes earlier. As you may expect, we realized, that we were in Great Britain immediately. One look outside the window was enough to see the mixture of sun, clouds and rain.



7.30 (London Time -1h): Finally we arrived at London Gatwick airport. As I already mentioned, the weather was exactly how you expect it to be in London. We made our way to the border, all hoping, that Stefani wouldn't have any problems there, but of course they took her out and she had to try to get through a special counter. All the others went already to get their luggage at the baggage reclaim. Now we only had one possibility, wait and hope. After a while, that must have been a little bit more than 20 minutes, Ms. Eckert and Stefani appeared and of course everybody was happy for her, that she had made it through the border control. We walked to the train station, where we had a little bit of time to buy something in a supermarket (breakfast). Our teachers went to buy the tickets, so we could get to our hostel, which was located three minutes away from Paddington station, so quite central.

8.45: We took a train from Gatwick to Farringdon, where we had to change the line and take an underground train to Paddington. I think most of us realised quite fast, that we weren't in Switzerland. Although we think, that SBB isn't so good, because sometimes they have delays, travelling is quite comfortable. Some of us had to stand the whole way, everyone tired and the most special I thought: The train had to stop every five minutes, I think, this was because they had to wait for some other trains. We lost some minutes, but of course we made our way to Farringdon, where we saw famous buildings for example Tower Bridge and Big Ben for the first time this week. At the Farringdon train station, we had to change to a tube train to Paddington, so we already had an impression of the mean of transport we were going to use most of the week.



10.15: Finally we arrived at Paddington station and we walked to our hostel. It was located at a residential area and because it was so early in the morning, we couldn't move into our rooms. That is how we went to London. Everything went as we expected. Everybody was tired but happy and excited for the next four days to come. We also experienced the advantage of arriving that early. We had the possibility to enjoy the whole week in this beautiful city in Great Britain: London.

