

## **Troyes 26th March to 30<sup>th</sup> March**

### **Sunday**

Nine students and two teachers from GBS Darmstadt as well as 12 students and two teachers from Petrus Canisius College Alkmaar traveled to Troyes by train and bus. The bus from Paris de l'Est to Troyes was the only option due to a strike. The students were picked up at Lycée les Lombards by their host families.

### **Monday**

After having been welcomed by the headmaster of Lycée les Lombards, Troyes, the students did project work. In a group they discussed the preparatory assignment, which had been to do a personal challenge that is connected to taking a share in trying to make a difference in our Western society of indulgence, waste and pollution. In the group work at the Lycée, the students were supposed to come up with yet another challenge that would show how to lead a more sustainable life. The entire group agreed that everybody would eat up their meals in the week of the exchange. Pictures of empty plates were to be taken. The group work also supported the getting to know each other and broke the ice, together with the Salsa lesson which followed. It also became clear that you don't need many resources to enjoy music and dancing.

We had lunch at the school cafeteria where everybody succeeded in finishing their plates. We took public transport into town and got to know the inner city of Troyes doing a picture hunt of important sights and "sustainable places" in Troyes. This activity was followed by a reception at the townhall.

### **Tuesday**

The group got some information on Troyes and the textile industry (Lacoste, Petit Bateau) there. Offshore production and the fast fashion industry were discussed.

We then got a school tour led by the eco delegates ([https://instagram.com/eco\\_delegue\\_lombards?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=](https://instagram.com/eco_delegue_lombards?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=)) of the school who presented the ecological focus already implemented at school: they plant trees and bushes to improve biodiversity (insects, bees, rabbits, hedgehog) and they have a little garden. In the technical departments of the school, the students and teachers work on ecologically friendly house building as well as ecological heating methods and isolation. Furthermore, they test solar panels and concern themselves with energy circulation and an improvement thereof. The eco delegates have put up containers for bottle caps and old pens in order to upcycle them.

We visited the integrated boarding school so our students would get an idea of this particular school culture.

After this ecological school tour, we continued to create awareness for the faults of the fashion industry. What are we wearing and where was it produced? The students found out where our clothes come from and afterwards they swapped clothing to promote second-hand wearing. Leftovers will be donated. The students also calculated their fashion footprint: <https://www.thredup.com/fashionfootprint/>. We had lunch at the school cafeteria again.

Thereafter, we went to EPF Engineering School (<https://www.epf.fr/>) specializing on energy efficiency and sustainable building. We got a short presentation about the four economic sectors and learned that building is the one that consumes most energy and produces most CO<sub>2</sub> as opposed to agriculture, transport and manufacturing. The students

were shown around and were able to get an overview of what the students at the university work on. There were four “workshop sessions” led by students of the university. The workshops comprised a visit of the university building (focus on its diverse heating system and way to save energy) and several presentations on what students concern themselves with, there.

### **Wednesday**

We took a bus to Cinèma Utopia which was designed in an eco-friendly way and which shows alternative movies. The building is all made of sustainable materials and there are dry toilets.

We watched the movie “The Biggest little Farm“ ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Biggest\\_Little\\_Farm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Biggest_Little_Farm)), which makes one aware of how monocultures destroy the planet and why biodiversity is so important especially in our climate changing environment.

No paper was used during the whole exchange and all of the students’ working activities were carried out by *powerpoint*, shared documents on *google drive* and tools like *Padlet*.

### **Thursday**

We took a bus (b/c of a strike) to Paris, took the Metro to Eiffel Tower. From there we did a walking tour along the Seine to Louvre and the Arc de Triomphe and to Notre Dame. From there we walked back to Paris Gare de l’Est where we took the train back to Germany/ the Netherlands.