

# CZECH FAREWELL



Czech Exchange Students, Teachers and Host-Family-Students

## Have you heard about Adcote school?

It is a private school for girls in the middle of nowhere, the nearest town is called Shrewsbury which is about 17 miles far away. It's a really beautiful and lovely town, but let's come back to the school...

When I said the school is in the middle of nowhere, I meant really in the middle of nowhere. There are forests and bushes around and no building. The building of the school itself looks like Hogwarts from Harry Potter, it was quite difficult for us to find our way.

The school was established in the year 1907, but the building is older. The really beautiful hinterland full of squirrels, rabbits and places for spending free time, but we mustn't forget that it's still a school, so there isn't that much free time.

The biggest difference between our two schools is the length of the school day. In our school, younger pupils usually finish earlier and even the older ones finish at half past four. Because of that, it is very weird for us that all pupils in this school finish every day at half past four and sometimes even later. For us it's unbelievable that girls from nursery school are here for such a long time. And another big difference is the length of lessons. In our country the lesson is only 45 minutes, but here it's 65 minutes! It's unimaginable for us. But then they have only five lessons per day; in our school we can have up to nine and that is horrible.

What we would like to emphasize is the structure of the lessons. They are so interactive and lively and the girls show real interest. We are usually bored in school, but with us, there is great emphasis on general knowledge. Here the girls know many details in depth but don't have the same general knowledge, which is – in my opinion – very important.

To sum up, this school is a really good example of English education and it was an interesting comparison for we Czech students. Some things here are much better but we would change some other things.

Overall rating: ★★★★★☆

## No slippers in school?!

### Comparing the Czech and British school system

- ▶ We have to take our shoes off and put slippers on.
  - ▶ We don't wear a uniform.
  - ▶ Everybody studies all subjects.
  - ▶ We start school at 8 o'clock and have more lessons.
  - ▶ One lesson is only 45 minutes, so we finish earlier.
  - ▶ Desks are in a row and we usually only sit, listen and write notes.
  - ▶ Lunch can be chosen on the internet.
  - ▶ There aren't really any assemblies.
- 🇬🇧 Everybody wears their shoes. (No slippers? What?)
  - 🇬🇧 In most schools pupils must wear a uniform.
  - 🇬🇧 Everybody chooses only 3 main subjects.
  - 🇬🇧 School starts at 9 o'clock, they have fewer lessons.
  - 🇬🇧 One lesson is 65 minutes, so they finish later.
  - 🇬🇧 Desks are in groups, the lessons are friendlier and more discussions are held
  - 🇬🇧 Lunch is chosen directly in the dining hall, so you see what you can pick.
  - 🇬🇧 There is an assembly every week.

The first day of our stay at Adcote School we had the opportunity to make a **silent movie**.

Mr Davies explained to us what a silent movie is and helped us with the motive and the shooting.

It was very *unusual* and *fun* for us.

Coming soon

## We have seen Prince Harry!



Nobody would expect to meet an English Prince on a school exchange.

On Wednesday we visited Ludlow and its beautiful castle. Then in Ludlow Food Centre we heard something about Prince Harry's stay in the town but we didn't pay attention. Later, in the coach, while we were driving home, someone shouted: "Look! They are on the left!"

We didn't know what he was talking about but then we turned and saw HIM! PRINCE HARRY was there with others participating in a charity walk for wounded veterans.

Our coach had to stop for a few minutes at a rail crossing so we could see him really clearly. Everyone was going crazy! It was one of the biggest experiences here in Shropshire. He gave us a big thumbs up in the end!

## Ludlow

On Wednesday, we visited the beautiful town of Ludlow. We saw a big gothic castle there and then we went to the town on our own. We bought a lot of nice gifts for our families. After that, we went to Ludlow Food Centre where we could see and buy tasty local eatables. On our way back, we got a great surprise!

## What I learnt about Britain

After spending 17 years, 5 months and 13 days as an uneducated person, I finally got the chance to put an end to my ignorance - to visit the country whose language I've been learning for the past eight years.

With a smile on my face and a suitcase full of warm clothes and food - God knows what weather and food they would have in England! - I made my way out of the Manchester Airport. On that lovely Friday evening, my feet touched the British ground for the first - but definitely not last - time.

Full of excitement, I entered the house of my host family where the cutest puppy ever was giving me a warm welcome. I got along with my host family straight away. Not once did I feel bored in their "Madhouse" - as they call their lovely, wild and slightly chaotic home. They provided me a closer look into the British culture - including various pies, puddings, Weetabix and The Great British Bake Off. They showed me many beautiful places like Blists Hill, Shrewsbury and Ironbridge.

I felt very welcome in my host family as well as in school. I was surprised how friendly and helpful people were. Without the help of Adcote students, I would probably still be wondering around the school searching for the Biology laboratory or History room. The patience, openness and kindness of the teachers at Adcote made our stay even better. Catching fresh air in the beautiful garden was a favourite part of my school days.

I got to know a different school system - an interactive and lively one - and spent a few days in a relaxed school environment. I learnt that the British are decent, open-minded, kind and friendly people and that England is actually a pretty pleasant place to live in.

I send my deepest thank you to everyone who made this stay possible and everyone who made it so amazing.

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