



My name is Flora and I am an exchange student from Germany. I'm here in Ireland doing the 4th year/Transition year in Kinsale Community School as my exchange year since September 2023. This year has been very exciting for me since it is the first time I have been away from home for that long.

Ireland was the perfect choice for my exchange year. This country is as beautiful and lively as I could have imagined it. Kinsale, the town that I now can call my second home, is a beautiful little place in the west of County Cork. It's located at Ireland's west coast and offers stunning views and an endless amount of breath-taking places to visit. What truly makes Kinsale special though are its people. The open-minded and friendly people here made a huge positive impact on my experience here.

My Host Family belongs to those people. With only living 10 minutes (by foot) away from the center of the town and only 15 minutes from my school I had all the opportunities I could have wished for. I'm very happy with my host family and I could not imagine a better place to call my home for my time here. They have been so welcoming and friendly to me and made sure I always felt comfortable.

My coordinator from Educate with Friends, Rachelle Kelly, was also always there to make sure we were happy with everything and getting along well in and out of school.

Every day I start my school day at Kinsale Community School at 8.40 am and finish at 3.30 pm in the afternoon. Transition year was the best decision for me because it has so many opportunities and activities for students to take part in. Besides the academic aspect, fun, happiness and individual interests are of great importance, especially during the 4th year/TY.

That left enough space for me to do lots of activities after school. I joined the school athletics team and went horse riding at Kinsale's Equestrian Centre just 10 minutes by foot away from school. Besides that, Kinsale offers a variety of sports clubs like football, hurling, soccer or camogie. Local gyms are also available.

Now that the exchange year is almost over for me I can not decide whether I should be sad leaving all of this behind or happy to see my family again. I think it's a bit of both. Fact is, this will not be the last time I will see this country. I made memories and friendships that will probably last all my life and I am very grateful for that.

Flora Richter, 24/04/2024