



s and Billy Dennehy from Kins

Hi, I'm a 16-year-old girl from Germany. I was living in Kinsale in a host family for over 5 months. I honestly spend the best time of my life here in Kinsale and would always recommend anyone to do to this opportunity.

When I first arrived in Ireland, I felt excited but also nervous. It was my first time living in a different country, far away from my family and everything familiar. I didn't know exactly what to expect, but I was ready to learn and grow.

From the very beginning, I was lucky to be placed with a lovely host family. They welcomed me warmly and made me feel like part of their home. We shared meals, laughs, and special moments. The children were full of energy and always made me smile, and the parents were kind and supportive whenever I needed anything. I'll always be thankful for the time we spent together.

I am also very grateful for the help, encouragement, support and understanding from our coordinator. She would always listen if you had a problem and would take good care of it. Whenever we were stuck, she would help us.

One of the best things about this experience has been meeting new friends from all around the world. We come from different countries and cultures, but we became really close, and I know these friendships will last a lifetime.

We shared so many experiences-going to Cork, walking around Kinsale and just talking for hours about life. It's amazing how people who were once strangers can become such an important part of your story in such a short time. I also learned that being shy doesn't bring any friendships - you must be yourself and then you'll become friends with the right people.

Living abroad also gave me the chance to learn about other cultures-not just Irish culture, but also the traditions and ways of life of my international friends. Every day felt like a little adventure, and I learned so much just by being surrounded by different perspectives. The school would also help you to learn more about the culture and is always supportive. You have the opportunities to take part in different competitions and projects, where it's possible for you to as an example go to Dublin for a day. These experiences were such a fun and they make good

This year has also taught me a lot about independence. At first, being alone in a new place was a bit scary. But over time, I learned that being alone isn't a bad thing—it actually helps you discover who you are. I've become more confident, more responsible, and more open-minded. I learned how to enjoy my own company, how to solve problems on my own, and how to grow as a person.

I feel like I've gotten to know myself better than ever before. I've grown not only in my English and my confidence, but also emotionally. This experience helped me realise what's important to me and what I want for my future.

I'm truly grateful for everything this 5 month had given me—the people, the lessons, and the memories. Saying goodbye won't be easy, but I know that this is not really a goodbye. I'll always stay in touch with the friends and host family who made this year so special, and I hope to come back and visit soon.

This experience changed my life, and I'll carry it with me wherever I go. I'll always think of all the good memories I made, and I will surely come over again to visit everyone!

Lena Peters, TY

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