



My name is Mira and I am an international student from Germany living in Kinsale.

When I first arrived in Ireland, I wasn't sure what to expect. It was my first time being so far from home, and I was nervous about doing an exchange year. Saying goodbye to my family and friends was hard, but that nervous feeling disappeared quickly thanks to the warm welcome I received.

Rachelle met us when we arrived and was immediately kind and supportive. From the beginning, she made sure we felt safe and comfortable. She helped us get settled and introduced us to our host families, always making time for us if we needed anything.

My host family was absolutely amazing. They made me feel at home from the very beginning. I loved getting to know the kids and being a part of their daily life. We did so many fun things together-like going on trips, playing games in the garden, and just talking around the dinner table. I will always remember the time we spent together and how they made me feel like part of their family.

I attend Kinsale Community School, which I think is a fantastic school. I made also new friends. I've gotten to do so many things with them - visiting Cork, going on school trips, and just hanging out. I've learned a lot, not just in school, but also about myself and other cultures.

Some of my favourite subjects were home economics, art and science. I also joined a tennis club which helped me make even more friends and stay active. Doing these things helped improve my English and gave me more confidence.

What I loved most about my experience here was how supported and welcomed I felt. And Rachelle organized many trips that was also excellent, I know it probably wasn't easy to plan all that, but she did a amazing job In it!

The friendships I've made and the memories with my host family are things I will treasure forever.

I'm incredibly grateful to Educate With Friends for this amazing opportunity. It has changed me in so many positive ways, and I will always remember this year with a smile. I've grown, learned, and made unforgettable memories.

Though I'm sad that this year is coming to an end, I know I'll be back to visit one day.

Mira Aileen Goossens

2nd year

9th May 2025