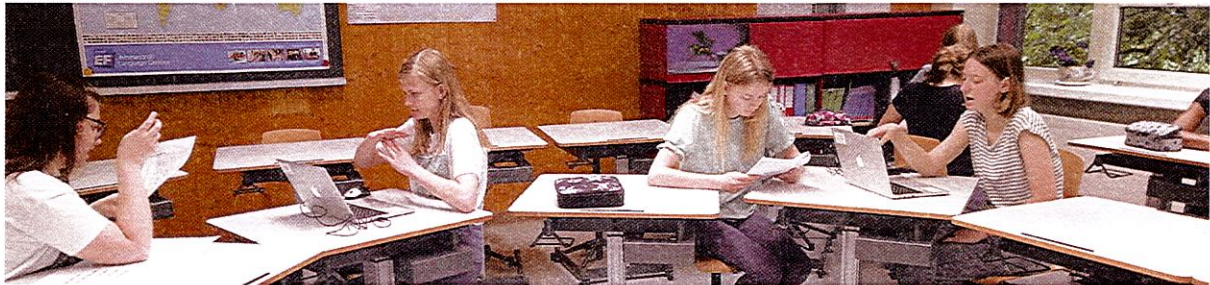


JAHRESBERICHT 2019/2020 ENGLISH – LAURA SALMON

One of the world's most used languages is English – but what did we do this school year in the English lessons? Trying to keep in line with the diversity that the English language has – being spoken in Asia (e.g. India and Singapore), in Africa (e.g. Kenya and South Africa), Europe (e.g. Ireland and England), North America (e.g. Canada and the USA) – the English lessons should be diverse too!

So we occasionally do boring grammar lessons (it can't all be fun, sadly), but we also play games. A highlight this year was “Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes” – a game where one student has a laptop with a bomb on the screen, has to describe the bomb to their partner who in turn has to tell the other one how to defuse the bomb. Emotions ran high! Some got angry, some were ecstatic, see for yourself:



Of course, we had an usual year with the Covid-19 situation. But even then, we tried our best: reading out the lyrics of their favourite song, doing exercises on Microsoft Teams, watching grammar videos and solving Microsoft Forms quizzes – we did it all. But I must say, I'm glad I got to see the students again in May because language lessons only truly live when we can have social interaction, chat and joke, listen and read, discuss and argue.

The final years always have a special time – it's their last year of school after all – and they wrote about their future jobs and what they look forward the most. I think we can agree that these are indeed great advantages:

- earn one's own money
- make new friends at the Berufsschule
- work with cars
- draw on the computer
- learn new things in general

- help people
- only do what one enjoys

Important in the anglophone world, just like everywhere else, are special celebrations. This year, everyone got a Christmas card. But not just any card, the hard-working students made the cards themselves using Pixlr (an online graphics tool) because hey, we're in 2020 and I'm sure Santa Clause has a smartphone too. But that was by far not the only creative thing we did in this year. The 1. Real made posters about a city of their choice while the 1. Sek invented their own festivals. Have a look at these beautiful pieces of work:



English lessons are much more than just grammar and learning words by heart. We discuss current situations like the US riots, learn about different countries' traditions and how we see some accents as better than others (and why that isn't especially good).

Despite the difficulties, I hope that my students have learnt as much from me as I have learnt from them. I thank everyone for another brilliant year in Muhlen and look forward to the next one. I leave you with this inspiration quote from one of the greatest English writers, J. R. R. Tolkien:

“EVEN THE SMALLEST PERSON CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF THE FUTURE.” – GALADRIEL, LADY OF LÓRIEN (LORD OF THE RINGS)