



**A new dimension in our exchange programme
with Santander /Spain**

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After being host to our Spanish guests from 21 to 26 April two teachers and 9 students went to our partner school in Santander from 8 to 12 May. In our 4th exchange we managed to establish a communication platform via a special facebook community which enabled students and teachers to get in contact long before they actually met.

Therefore it was possible for the students to get to know each other and to communicate in English. The cooperation with the Spanish vocational school offers an authentic learning arrangement. "It was quite motivating to exchange ideas with our exchange partners, to describe our school and apply for a placement in Santander" said Tobias Thönnies, one of the students taking part in this year's exchange. He added that "he was a little worried about talking in English, but got more and more self-confident during the preparation and the exchange itself.

While the Spanish students visited OPEL AG in Bochum and BAYER AG in Leverkusen the German students had the opportunity to visit EQUIPOS NUCLEARES S.A.



Students from Leverkusen visiting the Spanish Vocational College

producing casks and vessels for nuclear power stations and GLOBAL STEEL WIRE processing scrap metal to high-quality steel.

Another highlight for the German students was to take part in some lessons together with their Spanish mates. Azeez Mohammed was quite astonished "that the Spanish students do very similar things and he would have liked to participate in the projects longer."

Of course the German students had to adjust to a different way of life. Lukas von Uden was quite surprised "that lunch and dinner was much later than in Germany". However he appreciated very much the rich meals prepared by his host family. "It's different, but also very tasty".

All students want to keep in touch with their partners and appreciated the hospitality of their host families. On our way back from the airport to Leverkusen Azeez wistfully murmured "I will definitely go back to Santander."

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