

Day 8

Today we didn't go to school because it was a bank holiday on the occasion of the coronation of King Charles III. First we went to Dartmoor, which is a huge national park in the west of the county Devon. We went to the place where our coach was waiting. It slowly drove on a narrow road. which gave us time to make out a small farm with alpacas, cows and ponies.



When we arrived there two guides were waiting for us, Ian and Richard, who divided us into two groups to lead us through the moor. They showed us different materials and minerals that can be found in Dartmoor, like copper, tin and even gold, as well as plants like foxglove or gorse. Then they told us about the quarries and the tramways that were used to transport massive granite stones. There were also remains of houses from the bronze age.

Later we stopped by the famous Haytor where the guides gave us some jaffa cake (at first we didn't even know what they meant by that), which we devoured happily, even though the wind was blowing heavily and we were all kind of soaked in wet.



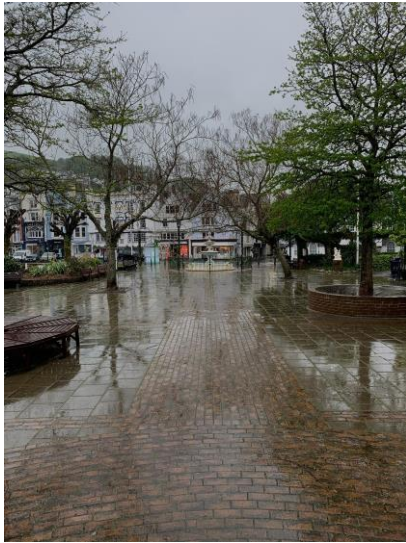
On our way back we even saw the infamous Dartmoor ponies, which are mostly owned by the person who owns the specific part of the national park. (Most parts of Dartmoor are privately owned.)



After we had got back to the bus (not before we had cleaned our muddy shoes thoroughly) we went to Widecombe in the Moor, where we visited

the lovely St. Pancras Church. (It has one of the tallest church towers of England).

After that we went to Paignton where we had to hurry to reach our train. (We got stuck in a parking space on our way).



The train was an old locomotive and it took us approximately half an hour to get us from Paignton to Dartmouth, our final destination.

When we arrived there, it was again raining cats and dogs and the only thing most of us did during the one hour free time we were given, was to find shelter from the rain, either outside or inside some cafés.



At 6 to 6.30 pm we got back to our host families, completely ragged. But it was a great day after all.

Ida & Almila