

Erasmus+ Teacher Mobility Visit to Austria

As part of our commitment to professional development, myself Ms Carrick and Mr Kennedy recently participated in an Erasmus+ mobility programme in Austria. Erasmus+ is a European Union initiative that supports collaboration and professional learning across schools and educational systems.

During the visit, we spent time in a Sportmittelschule (sports-focused middle school) in Bad Vöslau, where we observed teaching and learning in a different educational setting. We thoroughly enjoyed our time in the school and greatly valued the opportunity to engage with both staff and students in such a welcoming and positive environment. The school atmosphere was notably relaxed and student-centred, with fewer formal rules and a strong emphasis on independent learning.

We also gained insight into the Austrian assessment system, which differs significantly from Ireland. Students complete fewer formal examinations, mainly in Mathematics and languages, placing less emphasis on high-stakes testing. This experience highlighted both the benefits of their approach and our appreciation for the structure and routine within the Irish system.

Alongside our school visit, we explored Vienna, Baden, and the Austrian Alps, all of which offered a rich cultural experience.

Overall, this Erasmus+ visit was both professionally and personally rewarding, providing valuable insights into international education and opportunities for reflection on our own practice.

