

Writing my fourth ya blog already!!! It feels like I only wrote my last one yesterday. Although I have mentioned how fast time is flying while I am here in Germany -- not only in my blogs but to family, friends, and colleagues -- it really is hard to believe I am leaving Germany so soon already. Since my last blog, I have been keeping busy. I recently returned from Ireland while the school students were on holidays and quickly got back into a routine in the school.

Next week I plan to travel to Munich on the train for two or three days to visit a friend who is studying as an Erasmus student at a University there, I cannot wait! Another friend from Ireland will travel over to meet us and then she will come to stay with me for a few days. I have been to Munich once before while on my Erasmus, but I am excited to go again as my friend from Ireland has never been. On Fridays I do not have any classes, so this gives me a long weekend in order to travel around on my time off from the school which I am very grateful for.

There is loads to do in Munich. The Marienplatz is really the heart of the city. It is a huge public square, close to many shops and restaurants. The city hall building is a beauty, and it has a Glockenspiel which you can actually watch in action- I have actually been here before and it was lovely to see, I will attach a picture below, but someone has also posted a video of this on Youtube [here](#) if you want to watch it in full! The English Garden is also a very popular park. It contains a Greek temple, a Chinese pagoda and a Japanese tea house. Hopefully, the weather will be nice and we will be able to spend a lot of time here. You can also go and visit the Munich Residence. This was the seat of government and residence of the Bavarian dukes, electors and kings (apparently from 1508 to 1918!). You can visit inside. Even though a lot of it was destroyed during WWII, it has been reconstructed and it is apparently well worth a visit. I have been researching this online. [Here](#) is a link to the website if you want to have a look – you can see some pictures of some of the rooms and there is even a floor plan. There's also a huge food market in the city centre where you can buy food, souvenirs, and there's also a beer garden. I'm really looking forward to this trip!!

Classes in the school and grinds are going well and I am still enjoying the teaching aspect and have set a good weekly routine for myself. Recently, I have started to enquire about volunteering for maybe one or two days a week. In February, I went to Nuremburg again with a friend and stayed overnight. We went shopping and had a look around – the Old Town (Altstadt is so picturesque!). I noticed I have become a little bit more confident in speaking German and initiation a conversation or a question in German rather than in English when I am out shopping which is good.

One week I went shopping in the local supermarket here in Dinkelsbühl and I lost my phone! I was very stressed as I had my bank card and driving licence in the back of my phone. Luckily all the workers in the shop and some customers helped me to find my phone and it was returned to me not long after. I was very lucky and very grateful for the kind people who helped me that day. This is the second time I have lost something here in Dinkelsbühl. Both times my items were returned by very kind people. I've been really lucky to work here. My ELA will finish up in May, I think I'll actually be sad to leave.

