

Hi, my name is Natalie and at the moment I am living in Newtownmountkennedy, a small town in County Wicklow. I have already spent one month in Ireland and will stay here for nine more.

The last month I spend in Germany went by very quickly and with every day that passed I got more excited to finally start my year abroad. Then finally on the 26th of August the departure day was here and I went to the airport together with my family. At the airport I met other German students who travelled to Ireland with MAP and I was happy to not be alone while on my flight. I am still in contact with one of the girls I met there and we text each other regularly about how we are doing. We also plan to meet each other during the midterm break and spend a few days together.



During my flight and when I arrived at the airport in Dublin the sun was shining, but 10 minutes later it started to rain which is very common here but I got used to it. Later my host mother picked me up from a bus station and as I arrived at my house I was really wrecked from the long travel but also happy to be finally here. My host family consists of my two host parents, their two little children, my international sister from Spain and a cat. My host family made me feel like I am a part of the family since the day I arrived and therefore I feel very welcome here. Last Sunday I went to an Irish dancing competition of my host sisters and watched them and it was really interesting to see something typical Irish.

I am attending Cabinteely Community School which lies in a suburb of Dublin. I am in Transition Year and therefore in a year where the focus lies on personal and academic development and not on examinations. Therefore we do lots of trips this year. For instance we went kayaking, paddle boarding and rock climbing every Wednesday afternoon for the first six weeks of school. I think that is a great opportunity because in Germany I would not have done that. The trips are one reason I decided to go in TY but also because I want to enjoy my year here by spending time with friends and learning new things, without the pressure of doing lots of

homework and preparing for exams. We have to write exams in some subjects at the end of every term but in my opinion the school system is easier here than in Germany. Most of the grades are made by doing practical work as for example by doing experiments or other kinds of projects. Therefore I would recommend to attend the TY while the staying in Ireland to everyone who wants to gain lots of experiences and without being under pressure in school.

Next I am looking forward to Halloween because here everyone is talking about it.

