

My first night in Larvik, Norway



Figure 1 Larvik station (wikipedia)

Sunday, we arrived at the Larvik's train station before 5 o'clock. My first impression of Larvik is that the town seemed smaller than Poitiers, but we were nearby the sea so maybe it's better. Then I met my correspondent's family. My correspondent's name is Frida, she lives with her parents and her little sister. Later, we attended a handball match in the arena of Frida's school which name is Thor Heyerdahl, in tribute to the famous Norwegian navigator. Handball is very popular in Norway, at least in Larvik and more generally, sport is very considered in Norway. I noticed that because the match was filmed and broadcast on a large TV. There were men's game and also women's game. At the end, the winners received a cup. It was very organized and professional.

The evening, at dinnertime, I ate Indian food with my correspondent and her sister, Stine. We talked about lots of things and I learnt a lot about Norwegian social and educational systems in order to highlight the difference between our own countries. I was very surprised that I could understand and speak English to someone who didn't speak my first language so I was more confident about communicating in English. For the night, and the rest of the journey, Frida left me her room. It was nice and moreover I had a sea view.

Thor Heyerdahl high school



Figure 3 Thor Heyerdahl Highschool (wikipedia)

The school is very impressive with all those glass walls. In fact, the classrooms are separated by glass walls so everybody can see what is happening in the classroom. At first I thought that could be a distraction but little by little I noticed that it had no effect on the students. Also this school is bigger than my school, Victor Hugo. Moreover, it's more equipped because they have an arena, a football field and a fitness room. The only inconvenient is that they have not a restaurant in the school in order to eat every lunch even they have a cafeteria that sell sandwiches, sodas and everything.

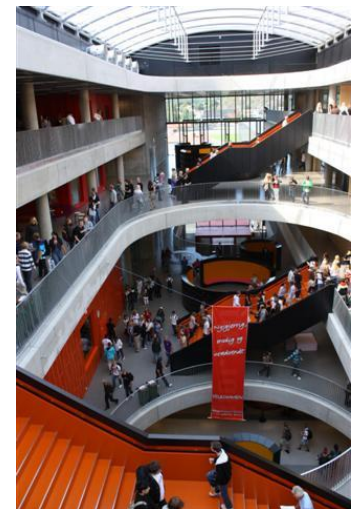


Figure 4 Thor Heyerdahl Highschool : Main Hall (wikipedia)

In Norway, students are very independent and have a different working method

Our school first impression, the high school is very big, well equipped with nice computers, good sport facilities. They have a lot of places to work independently.

Norwegian students are very friendly with teachers, they call teachers by the first name.

They finish at 15:30. They have 45 minutes for a break for lunch. They don't have self like in France but they have cafeteria to buy sandwiches, salad if they want. Most of them bring their own lunch.



Monday:

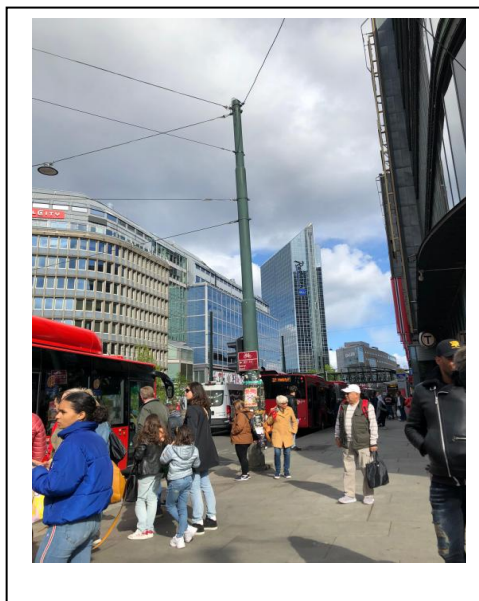
It was the first day we visited the school. First, we had an opening ceremony: there were a presentation of the headmaster, all the teachers and the foreign students who came from Bulgaria, Italia and of course Norway, the host country. Then, two groups of Norwegian student sang accompanied by a student who played piano. We had a presentation of a special class that encourage all the foreign children to learn and deepen the language abilities because it's the most difficult part to integrate the society: it's the "Combination class". I very like this system because I think that this class can help many people to have a new life, in a new country. After telling us the program of the week, we've been separated into many groups whose leader was a student of the "Combination Class"

First of May in Norway

The day before the first of May, for the Norwegians it's a kind of a tradition to do some parties with their friends. With Juliette and our pen pal, we went to a party and we learned how people celebrate the 1st of May and the day before in Norway. We've already explained what the young Norwegian do the last day of April: they are with their friends, and often they drink a lot of alcohol because the 1st of May is a bank holiday in Norway, so they can sleep the next day. Alcohol for the underage in this country is normally forbidden, but the parents are in general permissive, and the students know their limits and they are respectful of each other. Nevertheless, most of the time they also do parties for the 1st of May especially for last-year students. For them, it exists a kind of a big celebration called "RUSS"; all the students are regrouped on a stadium, and they drink a lot of beer and other alcohols. The purpose is to be completely drunk and to play a football match. The younger students are also here to watch the match. There is also something really important in this celebration: Each year, a group of young people chooses and pays a bus. They paint it, and rearrange it. They create some music like electro music and they listen to it during all the party. This year, the theme is Frankenstein.

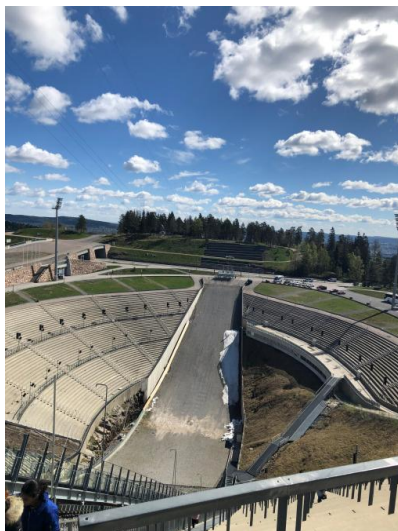
Visit of Oslo : Thursday 2 May 2019.

Figure 5 In the streets (personal picture)



Logbook written by French students

On Thursday morning we visited two museums. The first museum was the Bygdøy museum and it was on the Fram, it's a boat which was used for the big expeditions of Fridtjof Nansen from 1893 to 1896



The second museum was about the Vikings.

There is the ski ramp that was used for the Olympic games in 1952, we visited this ramp, it was great and it was big and very beautiful.



On Thursday morning we took the bus to visit the city of Oslo. Oslo is the capital of Norway. We have spent all the day in Oslo and it was a great day because this city is very beautiful.



