



Group Mobility BELGIUM 11-2024

School Day at GO! atheneum Russelberg Tessenderlo



On Wednesday, the Austrian students had the opportunity to experience a regular school day at **GO! atheneum Russelberg Tessenderlo**. Divided into smaller groups, they joined lessons such as English, Sports, Mathematics, Economics, Natural Sciences, Dutch, and Cultural Sciences.

The impressions of the Belgian school varied among the participants. While some students described the atmosphere as *“very different but also very cool to see how they are taught”* (student comment), others noted that *“it was very cold in the school and somewhat louder than in Austria”* (student comment). The class sizes, teaching methods, and the relationship between teachers and students were frequently mentioned as striking differences. One participant wrote: *“The teaching methods are different; the class size is smaller; the relationship between teachers and students is more informal.”* The interaction with Belgian students was described as mostly open and positive. Several Austrian students highlighted that their peers were very curious and asked many questions about Austria: *“They were very open and friendly, and asked a lot about our school system and daily life.”* (student comment).

Despite the differences, most students enjoyed the classes: *“It was very pleasant and not as strict”* (student comment). Some appreciated the technical equipment, while others saw room for improvement compared to Austria.



Disclaimer:

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Photo of Math class scene with Belgian students.



Photo of English class scene with Belgian students.

In the afternoon, the focus shifted from academics to social and cultural exchange. The Austrian students spent quality time with their Belgian buddies, engaging in a wide variety of activities. Sports played an important role, as several groups went to football fields or played games together. One student reported: *“After school, we went for traditional food and then played football with friends – it was very nice to spend time together.”* Another added: *“We played football and later FIFA at home – it was fun and relaxing.”*

Others enjoyed exploring the town and local culture: *“We went shopping in Hasselt and explored the city,”* while another group *“went to a restaurant and later watched a movie with the family.”* The culinary experiences were also memorable: *“The ice cream is much better than in Austria,”* one participant observed, and another noted: *“We tried traditional Belgian food, which was very good.”* Overall, the Austrian and Belgian students seemed to get along very well. Almost all students expressed the wish to spend even more time with their buddies in order to deepen their understanding of Belgian culture.



Photo Playing football outside.



*Photo of **Belgian** food tasting experience.*



*Photo showing **evening** activity at the host family (watching a movie).*



Disclaimer: