

# Report from Great Yarmouth College

---

13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 – Nils Slupphaug and Ronny Engan,  
Meldal Upper Secondary School

## **Introduction**

Early Sunday morning we set out on our journey for England and Great Yarmouth College. Presently we are working on an application for an EU project and the primary objective of this journey was to come up with a strategy for further work on this application. We were granted funds from SIU for this preparatory visit.

Means of transportation: We went by car from Løkken to Værnes Airport, Trondheim, by plane from Værnes to Stansted, London, by buss from Stansted to Norwich where we were picked up by John Armstrong from Great Yarmouth College. By 2 pm we had checked in at the hotel and we spent the rest of the day exploring the seaside of the town and preparing for the coming days. We had a rather tight schedule from 9 am Monday to 5 pm Wednesday.

## **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December.**

At 9 am we met Principal Robin Parkinson, Assistant Principal Diane Palmer, Vice Principals Roy Hughes (resources) and Julia Howard (curriculum). During the next hour we were informed about the British School System in general and Great Yarmouth College specifically.

We were given a guided tour of the school seeing most of the buildings and the different lines of study being offered at the school. During this guided tour of the school we met Kevin Bays, Head of School for Service Industries. One part of his field could be compared to our line of study called Food Processing and Catering, and this was of special interest to us. We discussed the possibilities of a future cooperation via video conferences. They had chefs coming to their school guiding and teaching the students how to cook, and these sessions could be transferred by video conference to us and vice versa. Suitable themes/topics could be traditional dishes from both countries.

Together with Anu Babu, Head of School, we had a meeting in the Alchemy centre before lunch. The Alchemy Centre is the building where the School of Innovation and Enterprise is situated. For more information on this subject, please read the attached report written by John Armstrong.

Finally we visited The School of Visual and Performing Arts. We were met and guided by Jane Gamble, Head of School. This line of study could be compared to our line of Media and Communication, and we found it really interesting. Since our 2<sup>nd</sup> year students are planning a trip to England – maybe even to this specific school – the whole sequence was filmed and can be viewed on our homepage by both teachers and students.

## **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

We were picked up around 9 am by John Armstrong and we drove to Landamore's Boatyard. There we were met by Kevin Webster who showed us around. The Boatyard produces quite expensive yachts for private customers. The boats range from 57 feet costing £500 to the biggest one costing £3 million.

There are some striking differences between the British and the Norwegian systems of apprenticeship. In Norway students normally attend an upper secondary school for two years, then they work for two years as an apprentice before the final test to decide if they can call themselves skilled workers or not. This is not the case in the UK. This firm admitted apprentices when they were 14 and if they liked it there, and the firm thought they were suitable for a future occupation in the firm, they could take courses/subjects at the local college. The firm gives all the proper teaching of the skills needed to conduct the job. The skills of the workers become formal the moment they apply for another job and needs documentation of his or her skills. This is then provided by the firm.

Landamore's Boatyard had workers from many different occupations employed, ranging from Construction, Technical and Industrial Production and Electrical Engineering.

On our way back we stopped for lunch at a nice tavern and had the traditional fish and chips.

After lunch we visited The Time and Tide Museum showing us that the fishing of herring and investments in tourism have been – and still are – important aspects of life in the region.

We returned to Great Yarmouth College in the afternoon and met Julie Search Whittaker, Head of School for Care. We also met the department's leaders here and were guided around the school premises and the kindergarten they were in charge of.

We also met Nicholas Morgan-Baker, SEN Champion. He was in charge of students with specific needs. The conversation was evolving around the challenges we all have meeting these needs among our students. We also discussed possible ways of working together in this field.

Around 5 pm we met The Entrepreneur Club Alchemy. The members were students from secondary school who wanted to prepare for college or a future as entrepreneurs. They presented themselves and the businesses they had invested in. This was a very interesting session.

## **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.**

We checked out from the Andover House Hotel this morning since we were staying at a hotel in Norwich the last night of the trip. John Armstrong picked us up again and we had a meeting with the Chief Executive in Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Richard Packham in the County Hall. As we drove to this meeting we were given a brief sightseeing of the city.

After the meeting we were invited for Christmas lunch together with the College Management Group at Great Yarmouth. The lunch took place at the school's restaurant – The Ambitions

Restaurant. Students from the school had made all the food and they did the serving as well. The atmosphere was rather formal, the food tasted delicious and the company pleasant. The head waiter turned out to be the same person who had been our waiter at the hotel.

Last stop of our visit to Great Yarmouth College was in the Department for Construction and Engineering. We had made arrangements with Dan O’Callaghan, Head of School for Construction and Engineering. We were given a tour around the premises. The buildings were brand new and had not been used yet.

We all drove to the hotel in Norwich. The hotel was by the river and turned out to offer a pleasant stay. We had dinner with John Armstrong in the hotel’s dining room.

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December.**

After an early rise - and specially prepared breakfast – we took a cab to the bus stop, then the bus to Stansted. Everything went well, even though there was a bit of snow in the air. Back in Norway we were met by a deep frozen car. Arrival at Løkken was at 5 pm. Home, sweet home!

This preparatory visit was a success and the next step is to finish our application to SIU for further funding. Working with entrepreneurship as a method is interesting, especially when working together with schools in other European countries.

### **Contact information/ Who we met**

---

John Armstrong, Project Director	epost: <a href="mailto:j.armstrong@gyc.ac.uk">j. armstrong@gyc.ac.uk</a>
Robin Parkinson, Principal	
Diane Palmer, Assistant Principal	
Roy Hughes, Vice Principal, Ressources	
Julia Howard, Vice Principal, Curriculum	
Anu Babu, Head of School of Innovation and Enterprise	epost: <a href="mailto:a.babu@gyc.ac.uk">a.babu@gyc.ac.uk</a>
Kevin Bayes, Head of School for Service Industries	epost: <a href="mailto:k.bayes@gyc.ac.uk">k.bayes@gyc.ac.uk</a>
Jane Gamble, Head of School for Visual and Performing Arts	epost: <a href="mailto:j.gamble@gyc.ac.uk">j.gamble@gyc.ac.uk</a>
Julie Search Whittaker, Head of School for Care	epost: <a href="mailto:j.whittaker@gyc.ac.uk">j.whittaker@gyc.ac.uk</a> ???
Dan O’Callaghan, Head of School for Construction and Engineering	epost: <a href="mailto:d.ocallaghan@gyc.ac.uk">d.ocallaghan@gyc.ac.uk</a> ???
Nicholas Morgan-Baker, SEN-Champion	epost: <a href="mailto:n.morgan-baker@gyc.ac.uk">n.morgan-baker@gyc.ac.uk</a>