

Hobbies and Interests

Social Media:

Over the past 20 years information and communication technology has changed quickly. Since 2006 there have been popular apps such as Facebook and Twitter.

Around 40% of the world's population use social media. An average of two hours per person is spent every day on platforms like Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. You can use those platforms on different devices such as tablets, smartphones and computers/laptops.

Social Media has its benefits like making it possible to communicate with people from all around the world and to make new friends and people can communicate with each other really quick. On special apps we can also send pictures and videos and even voice memos. It is especially easy to follow and get to know well-known people like stars and politicians.

However, it also has its disadvantages. Cyberbullying is a really big problem. Since anyone can create a fake account and do anything without being traced, it has become quite easy for anyone to bully on the Internet and spread rumors and fake news. Although there are many disadvantages, we think that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

As an Austrian student I can say that we mainly use WhatsApp to communicate with our friends and family. On WhatsApp you can create groups and send messages, videos, pictures and more. In order to be able to use WhatsApp you need to create an account for which you have to use your telephone number. The platform uses internet access like every other app and does not use SMS.

Our class, the 7a of B(R)G Leibnitz, has a group chat on WhatsApp which even some of the teachers use to give us important information about school tasks.

The Norwegian students, however, mostly use Facebook Messenger. Facebook Messenger has the same functions like WhatsApp. They also have group chats like we have on WhatsApp and also have a class group.

Freetime:

We found out that most of the Norwegian students do a lot of sports in their free time. They work out in gyms for an average of four hours per week. Not many Austrian

students work out, only some of them do. We spend our free time going to bars with friends, going for a walk or even doing school stuff together.

Doing a part-time job on weekends or even during the week is something a lot of the Norwegian students do. It is very usual for them.

The Norwegian and Austrian students all agree that listening to music, going to concerts and festivals is a fun thing to do. All of us have those interests. Some of the students in Norway even create their own digital music. A lot of us play instruments like the guitar, the piano or the flute, so in a way we create our own music, too.

We also have many mutual hobbies like hiking, swimming and skiing. Because of that similarity we went sledging together on the Salzstiegl in Austria, which was a lot of fun for all of us. In Bergen, Norway we are all going skiing together.

Restrictions:

The laws in Austria and Norway differ a lot. In Norway, for example, there is no curfew, whereas Austria has a law that tells you at what time you have to be at home. Every province has different laws of curfew. In Styria, the federal state in which Leibnitz is located, the curfew is as follows:

age:	time:
under 14	→ 9:00 pm
14, 15	→ 11:00 pm
16 and over	→ no curfew anymore