

Dublin, 26th October - 9th November 2019

CLIL: a challenge for the Italian School

Content and language
Integrated Learning

General English Course

Erasmus+ KA1

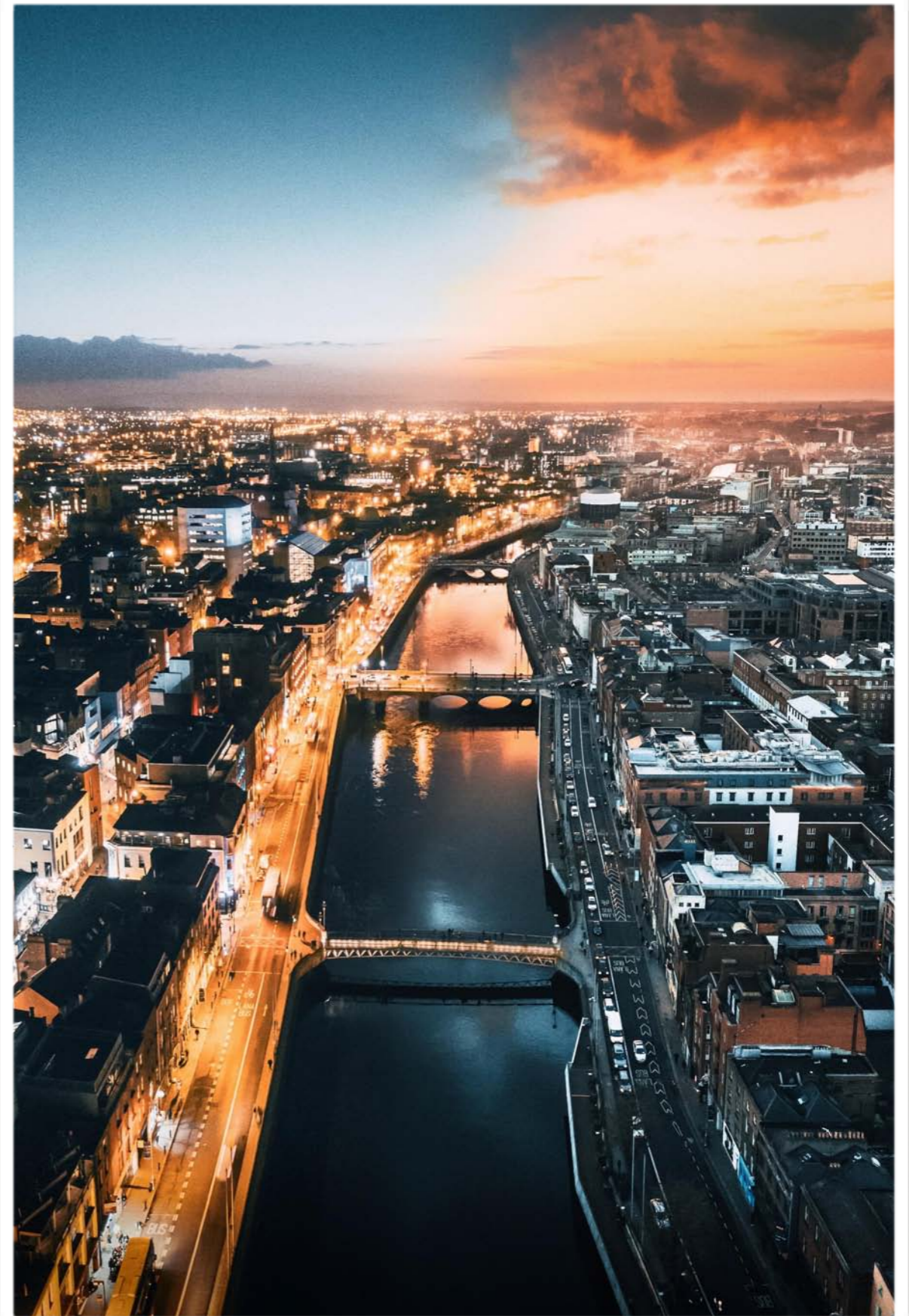
Report by Claudia Atzori

26th of October

My flight and arrival

I arrived two days before the course started because on the 26th of October there was the last Ryanair direct flight from Cagliari to Dublin.

I arrived in Dublin in the afternoon and I was a guest of a friend of mine for one night.

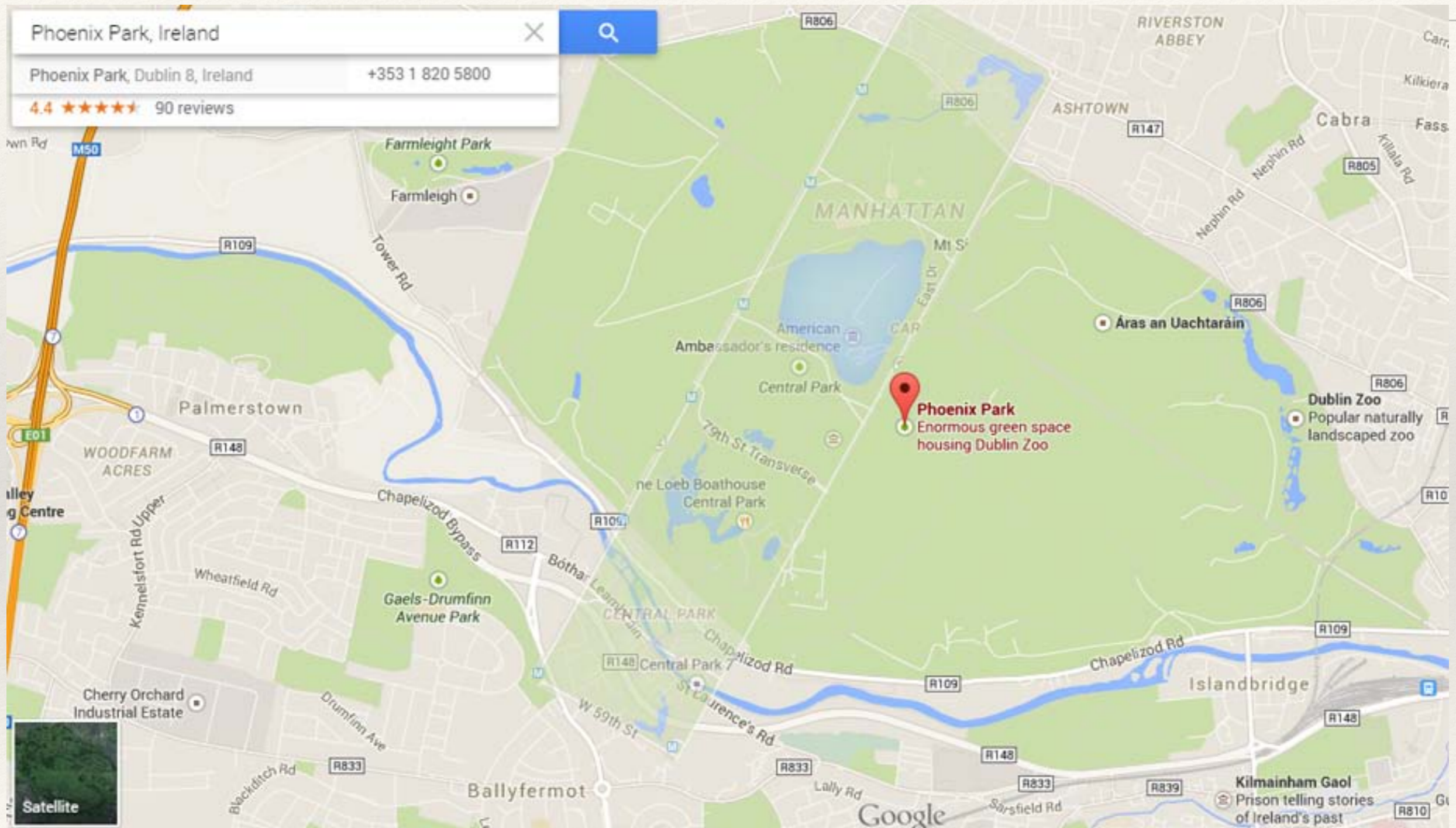


My first day

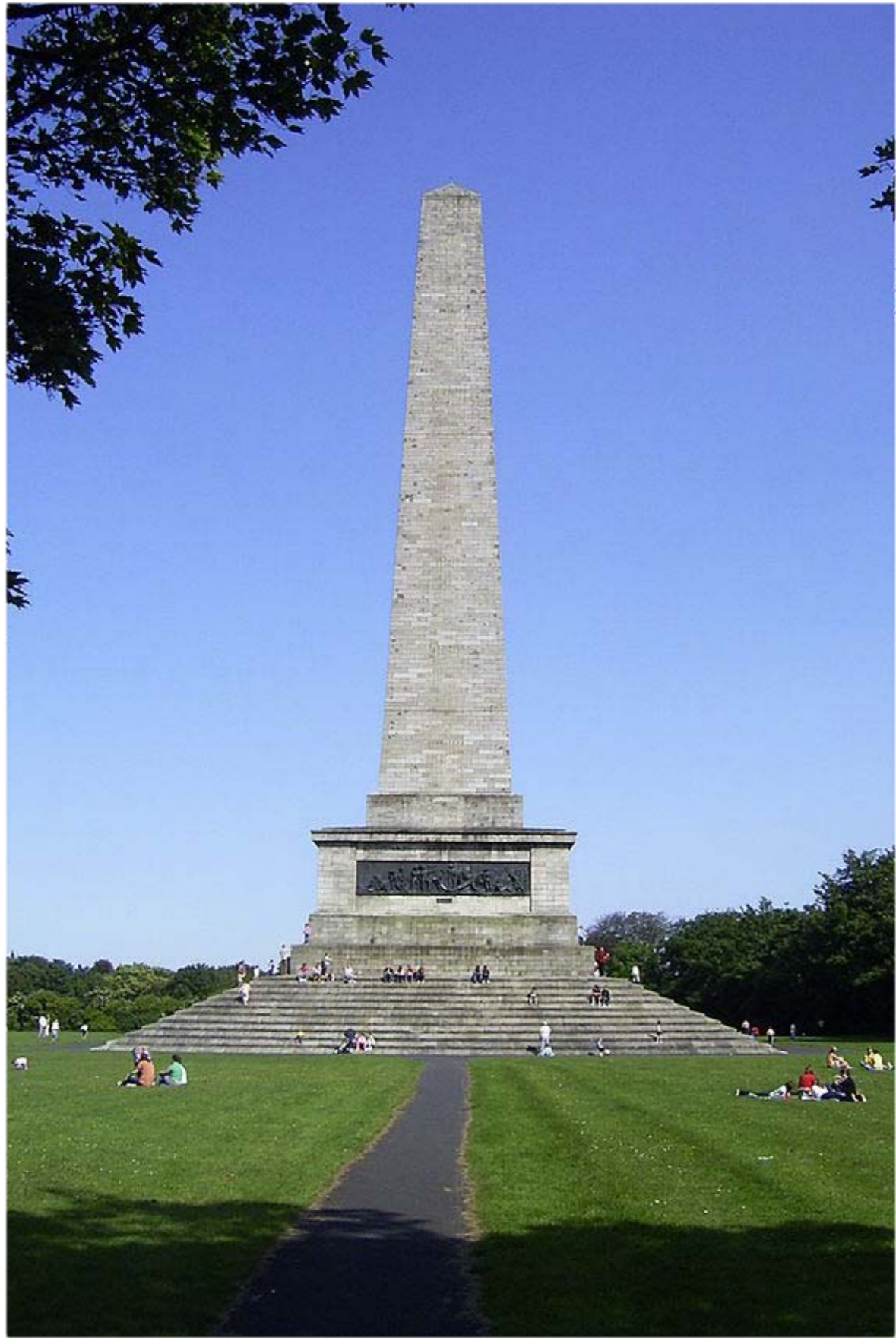
- ❖ My friend lives in a very nice area, in Dublin 11, called Castleknock.
- ❖ When I arrived she was out working but her mother in law was at the house. She is quite a bubbly and talkative lady.
- ❖ She warmly welcomed me and took me to a famous park called Phoenix Park.
- ❖ She used to be an English teacher, so it has been very helpful for me to spend some time together: I soon started my English full immersion.
- ❖ She was so kind to invite me to a nice restaurant for tea. The tea is at 6.00 p.m., quite a shock for me.



My first visit: Phoenix Park



Phoenix Park is the largest urban park in Europe



The second day

- ❖ It was Sunday and I was supposed to go to my host family in the afternoon.
- ❖ In the morning I decided to leave my friend's house and go to visit the city centre. But there was a problem: on that day the Irish biggest marathon was taking place so buses were not working.
- ❖ Eventually I decided to take a walk around Castleknock, but out of the blue I came across thousands of marathoners... I had probably taken a forbidden street...have a look...

The most important Irish marathon

- ❖ Everybody was running and staring at me suspiciously (I was walking in the other direction!).
- ❖ I started to run too to go faraway from the marathoners and after surviving from being crushed I found what I was searching for....



Farmleigh House



Farmleigh House

- ❖ Farmleigh House is the official Irish State guest house. It was formerly one of the Dublin residences of the Guinness family.



27th of October

A traditional Sunday Irish tea

After visiting Farmleigh and before taking me to the host family, that by coincidence was not very faraway from my friend's house, her mother in law invited us for a Sunday lunch at her house.

She loves Sardinia, which she has visited several times, and this is the way she welcomed me...I think I was very lucky for having this family experience.



My host family

- ❖ In the afternoon of the 27th I was given a lift to my host family house, which is very closed to Phoenix Park and to one of the most beautiful pubs in Dublin.

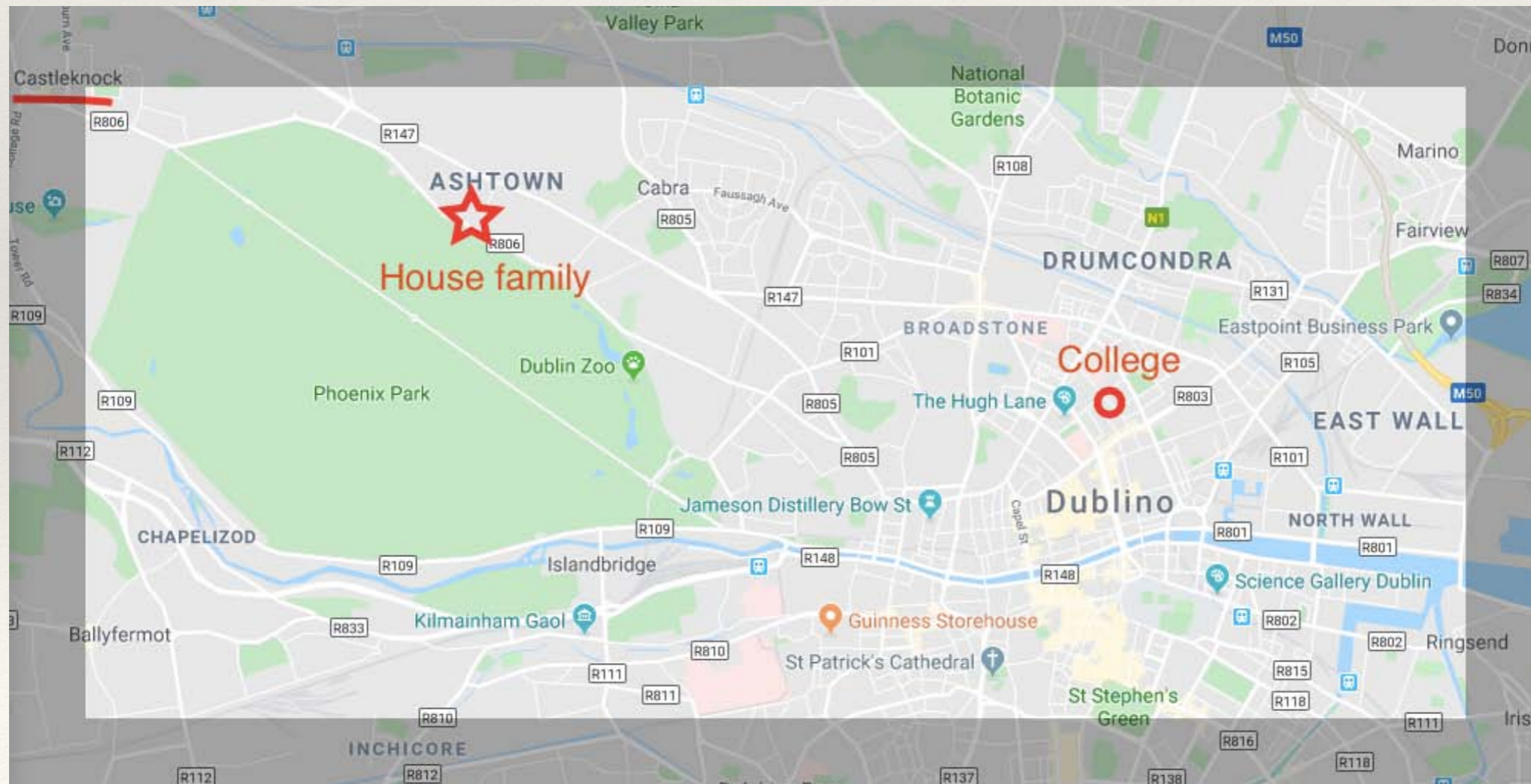


I think family hospitality is a good opportunity to practice the language and to know the local culture better.

My host family



- ❖ I stayed with this lovely family (Catherine and Gerry) for two weeks; after the first week a French teacher who had to study in Alpha College too came and join us.

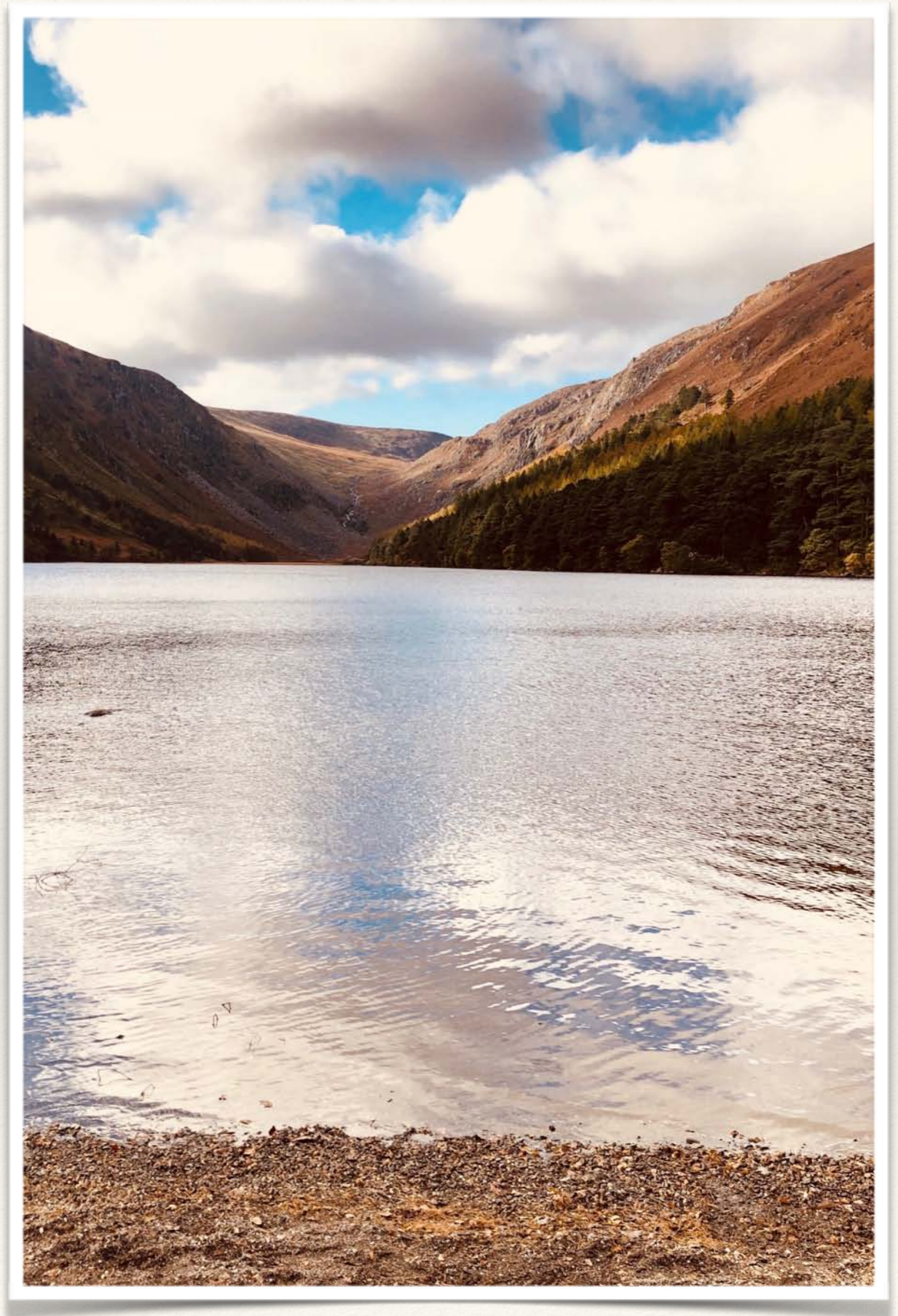


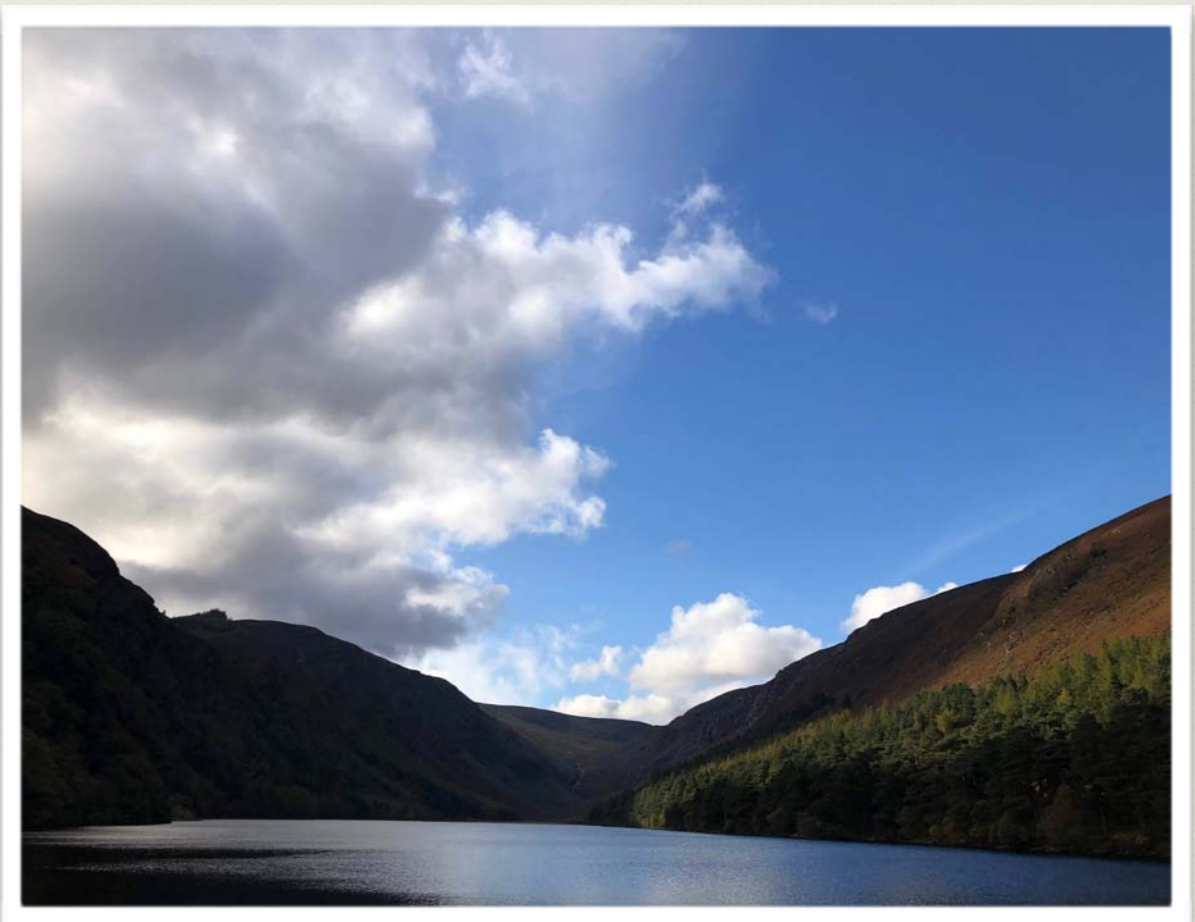
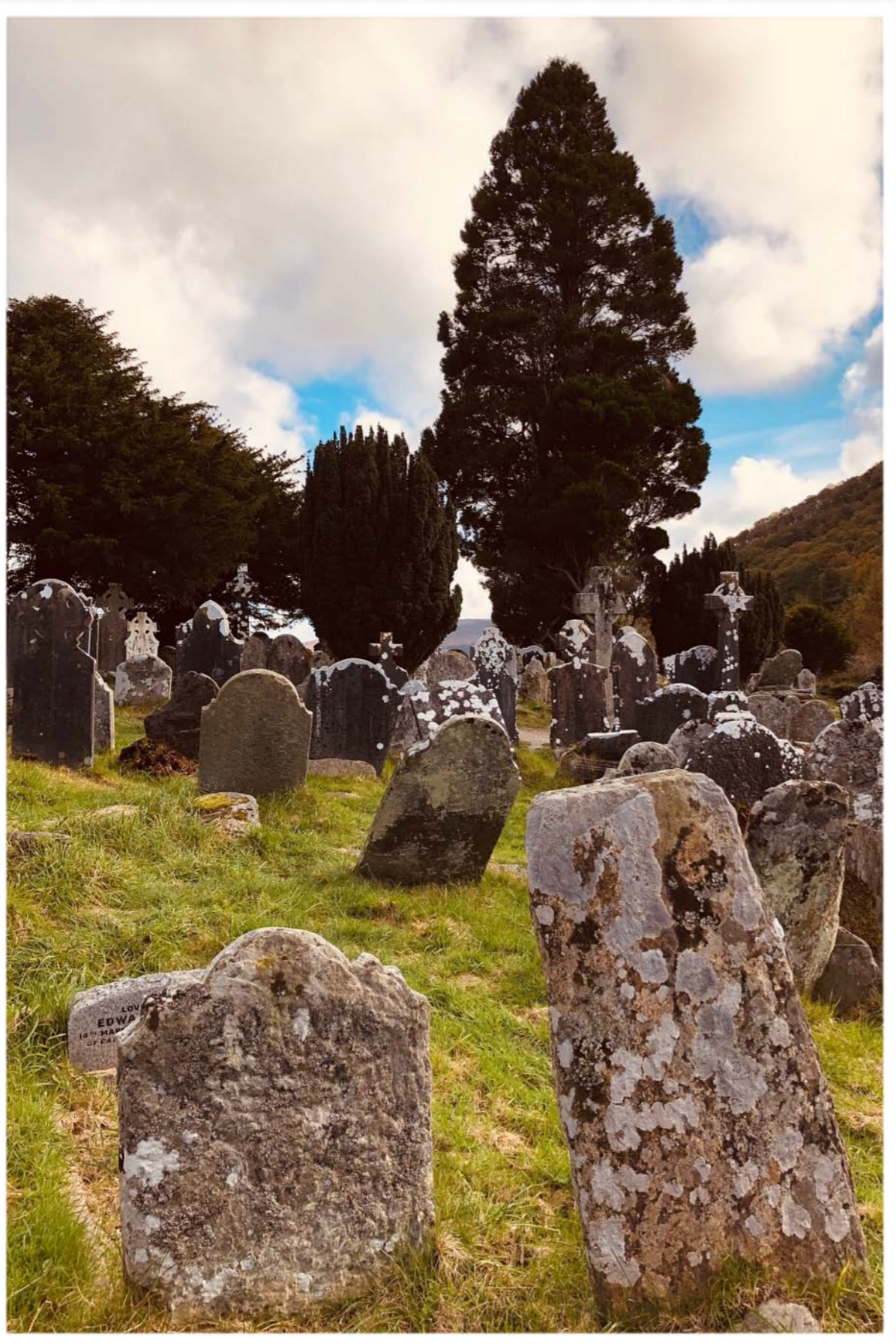
After a 30 minutes bus journey I finally arrived to the College

The first day at the College

Because it was Bank holiday, we went on a trip with schools teachers and students instead of having class.

It was a fantastic experience both for the people I met and for the place we visited...the legendary Glendalough: a glacial valley renowned for an Early Medieval monastic settlement.





Alpha College

- ❖ On Tuesday the 28th I started my General English Course in Alpha College.
- ❖ After the director welcomed, we were, explained rules, given the placement tests and sent to the classes.
- ❖ I went to a B2 Level Upper Intermediate class.



My class and teachers

- ❖ My class was quite multicultural and intergenerational, some students join the College just for one week, some others even for one year!
- ❖ Teachers were very friendly and well prepared.
- ❖ The approach was practical and laboratorial with the use of ITC.



The course objectives

This 2-week English Language Training is of significant benefit to non-native speakers of English who

- Are required to teach English or a subject through English, e.g. CLIL teachers
- Need to work on projects, exchange programmes or committees with an international dimension
- Need to liaise with English-speaking colleagues or parents of their students
- Need to undertake research or take part in conferences or seminars which will contribute to their professional development and the overall good of their school

Course Objectives

The aims of this course are:

- To develop and consolidate participants' language skills by enhancing overall competency in General English language usage in a multi-national environment
- To enhance communication in English between teachers and students in their schools
- To enhance participants competence in communicating and sharing of knowledge and experiences at International conferences and training courses where English is used for at least some of the sessions
- To enhance teachers competence in reading and understanding professional articles and journals which are published in English
- To promote awareness of Irish history and culture

The course methodology

Methodology

Alpha College classes cover all the language skills – speaking, listening, reading and writing as well as pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar activities. Syllabi are composed of three main areas- course book material, a weekly project and supplementary material based on students' needs. The rationale behind the syllabus is for students to get practice in producing real life English in their specific context of learning English in Ireland.

There is a strong focus on developing effective communication skills in class and students work on strategies and language for initiating and maintaining discussion, making suggestions, agreeing and disagreeing, and expressing and justifying opinions on a wide range of topics, depending on their level. Students can expect to receive focused feedback and teachers will supplement lessons according to the specific needs of the students in class. Evaluation of students' needs, the setting of learning objectives, and giving constructive feedback on learner outcomes are core features of the pedagogical approach at Alpha College.

Class work includes individual, pair and group work, discussions, debates, project work, presentations, written tasks and listening exercises. Each week a project topic is introduced to the class and students present their project work to the class at the end of the week.

The overriding goal of the afternoon modules is enhanced fluency development so syllabi have been developed which include communicative activities taken from a range of sources as well as activities based on authentic materials, with an emphasis on speaking and listening. The teacher focuses on students' output rather than on presenting new language in general and each module is designed to give students regular opportunities to give presentations on the module topic or on a corresponding aspect of their own lives, interests, or job/career specifications

My course: semi-intensive ETC02

Format

This is a 2-week course which may be taken in one of 3 formats:

ETC01 Standard: 20 morning lessons per week (All levels. Beginner level on 01/07/2019 and 22/07/2019 only)

ETC02 Intensive: mornings + 5 x 50 minute p.m. lessons over 2 afternoons per week (Minimum level A2+/preB1) or

ETC04 Super-intensive: mornings + 10 x 50 minute p.m. lessons over 4 afternoons per week (Minimum level A2+/preB1).

Follow Up

On the final day of the course, the participants engage in a reflection session in which they are encouraged to examine benefits gained from the course and complete a course evaluation form. The Alpha trainers are available for follow-up advice and support at all times.

The course program

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00 -	Placement Test and Evaluation of	Building linguistic,	Building linguistic,	Building linguistic,	Review & progress test. Consolidation of
10:50	Speaking Skills Induction/Orientation	strategic and pragmatic competences.	strategic and pragmatic competences.	strategic and pragmatic competences.	language and further skills practice.
10:50 -	Coffee Break				
11:10					
11:10 -	Introduction to class project.	Building linguistic,	Building linguistic,	Building linguistic,	Public presentation of project, critique and reflection
13:00	Building linguistic competences	strategic and pragmatic competences	strategic and pragmatic competences	strategic and pragmatic competences	Focused feedback on learner outcomes.
13:00 -	Lunch				
14:00					
14:00 -	ETC01 Guided self-study or optional cultural activities	ETC01 Guided self-study or optional cultural activities	ETC01 Guided self-study or optional cultural activities	ETC01 Guided self-study or optional cultural activities	ETC01 Guided self-study or optional cultural activities
16:05	ETC02 Guided self-study or optional cultural activities	ETC02 Guided self-study or optional cultural activities	ETC02 General English Fluency Development	ETC02 General English Fluency Development	ETC02 Guided self-study or optional cultural activities
	ETC04 Fluency Development: English for the Workplace	ETC04 Fluency Development: English for the Workplace	ETC04 General English Fluency Development	ETC04 General English Fluency Development	ETC04 Guided self-study or optional cultural activities

Lessons: first week

	Language focus	Vocabulary	Skills	Pronunciation	Task
Monday	Bank holiday				
Tuesday 29th	Past and present verb forms	The use of get	Speaking: your past and present		Listening and writing: The Jack o' lantern story
Wednesday 30th	Forming adjectives	Describing how you feel things that make you feel good	Reading: Happiness Listening: Things that make you feel good	Sounding calm or angry	Speaking about how people feel
Thursday 31st	Narrative tenses Continuos aspects in tenses	Mishaps Crime and punishment	Reading and listening: News articles		Tell a story from two points of view
Friday 1st	Passive form	Personal characteristics		Word stress	Progress Test

Lessons: second week

	Language focus	Vocabulary	Skills	Pronunciation	Task
Monday 4th	Perfect tenses	The use of prepositions			Talking about movies
Tuesday 5th	Present perfect simple and continuous		Reading and speaking: Journalist's 4 W	Vowel sounds	Talking about illnesses
Wednesday 6th	Noun suffixes		Listening and speaking: History of Ireland	Noun suffixes	Talking about cities
Thursday 7th	Hypothetical situations in the present and in the past	Life	Listening and speaking: History of Ireland		Giving an opinion about a story
Friday 8th	Prefixes	Lifestyle	Talking: Lifestyle	Prefixes	Progress Test

Alpha College social afternoons and evenings

- ❖ Every Fridays afternoon and evening, Alpha College organizes social afternoons - it means visiting galleries, museums or enjoying activities at the college - and evenings - which means going together to a typical pub.



Irish traditional music

- ❖ Once we sang, played and danced traditional Irish music...



Molly Malone

The Dubliners

In Dublin's fair city
Where the girls are so pretty
I first set my eyes on sweet Molly Malone
As she wheeled her wheelbarrow
Through the streets broad and narrow
Crying "cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh"

Alive, alive, oh
Alive, alive, oh
Crying "cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh"

She was a fishmonger
And sure, t'was no wonder
For so were her mother and father before
And they wheeled their barrow
Through the streets broad and narrow
Crying "cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh"

Alive, alive, oh
Alive, alive, oh
Crying "cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh"

She died of a fever
And sure, so one could save her
And that was the end of sweet Molly Malone
Now her ghost wheels her barrow
Through the streets broad and narrow
Crying "cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh"

Alive, alive, oh
Alive, alive, oh
Crying "cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh"

Alive, alive, oh
Alive, alive, oh
Crying "cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh"

Dalkey castle



- ❖ Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre are located in picturesque village of Dalkey in the country, south of Dublin. Dalkey was once famous for its seven castles of which only two remain.
- ❖ The trip to Dalkey was organized by the College.



Irish Pubs

- ❖ Irish pubs, where Irish music is often played, are characterised by a unique culture centred around a casual and friendly atmosphere.





Traditional Food and drinks



Fish and chips; Irish stew; Irish coffee; Irish fish coddle; pint of Guinness.



Halloween week end

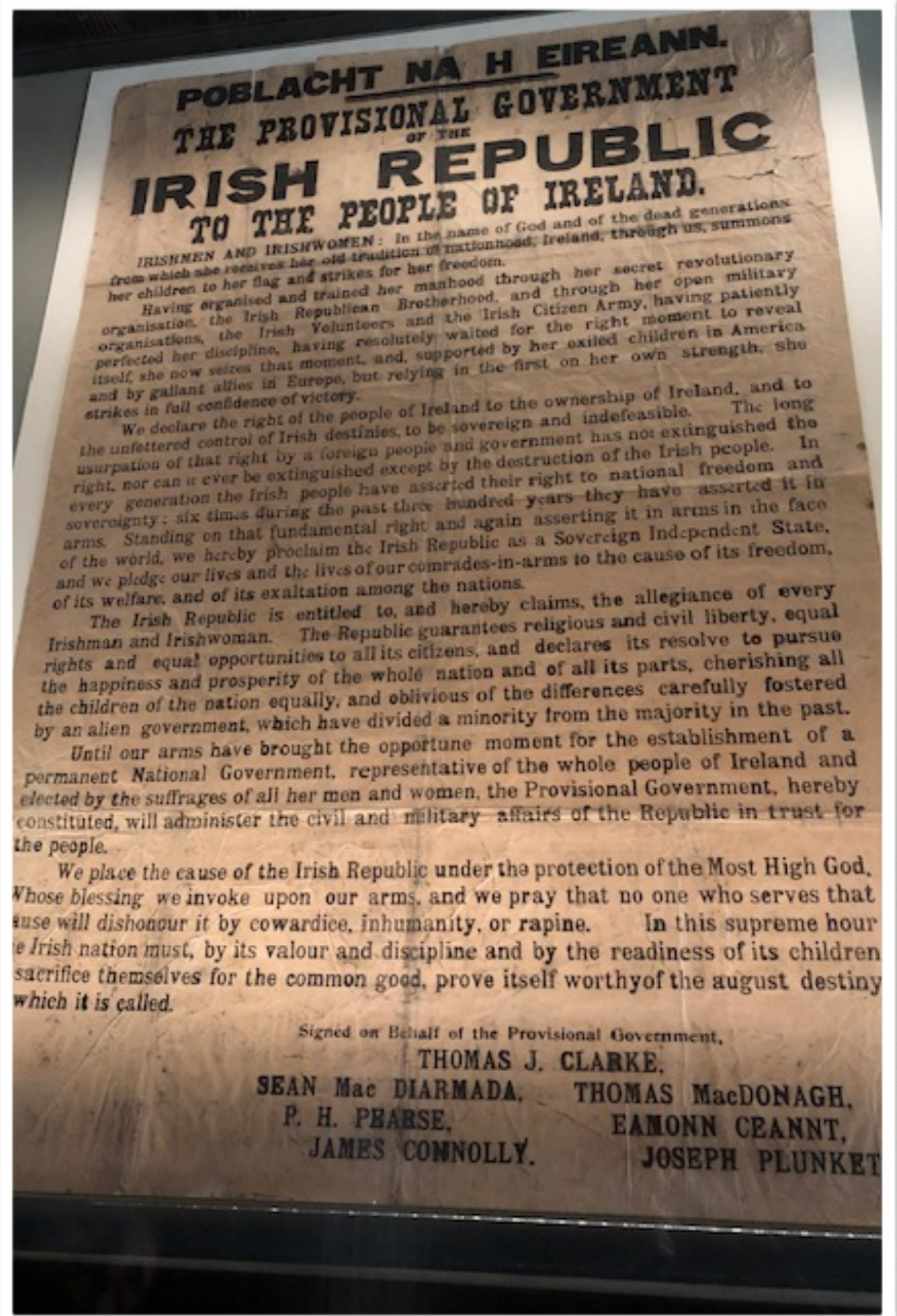
- ❖ I was very lucky for being in Ireland on a special week end... Halloween is an impressive big event over there.



Discovering the city

- ❖ Trinity College, was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I; it is one of most ancient universities in Britain and Ireland and Ireland's oldest surviving university.





Discovering the city



National Gallery; Grafton Street;
St. Stephen's Green Park; Dublinia Museum



Discovering the city

Christ Church Cathedral



St. Patrick Cathedral

What I have learned

- ❖ I have developed and consolidated my language skills in general English language,
- ❖ I have enriched my cultural background as it usually happens after an experience abroad,
- ❖ I have enriched my professional profile thanks to the teaching practices I saw,
- ❖ I came across new teaching methodology as google classroom and quizlet,
- ❖ I enjoyed studying and working in an international dimension,
- ❖ I have improved awareness of Irish history and culture
- ❖ ...I've loved this opportunity very much, hope you'll enjoy it too!

