

The English town **Cheltenham** is part of Gloucestershire, which is a county in South West England.

In addition to many **special events** like the Cheltenham Jazz, Science, Literature, Music or even Drink & Food Festival Cheltenham is also famous for being the seat of the **Government Communication Headquarters**.

My name is Jan, I am a participant of a group of seven boys who went to Cheltenham to gain work experience and in the following you can read about events that took place and impressions we gained.

In order to give our **British contact person** Carol Stephens an idea of our preferred jobs we had to fill in application forms and write **CVs**. Because flights and leisure time activities had to be booked in advance we had frequent contact (which of course took place in English) with Carol.

#### **-our first contact with Cheltenham**

We first met her when we arrived and were picked up by **our host families**. She also looked after us during the rest of our time in Cheltenham and is a friendly, organized and helpful person. Everyone was happy to have her as a contact person in England. We lived in the families in groups of two to three students **adapting to the British way of life** in an enjoyable way.

## **Cheltenham: Work experience**

So I had the impression that all the hosts were very friendly and fitted to the guests. One family even invited every one of us to dinner and gave us the opportunity to meet at their house.

But we preferred to **spend most of the time in the city centre** which could be reached by walking 30 minutes or less. The busy centre is rather small but has everything you need in it.

Because the jobs were very different I am going to give you two examples of our workplaces:

#### **I.T. Schools Africa:**

Here two of the participants worked in a firm were voluntary members repair computers and donate it to African schools. So they mostly had to work with hardware that had to be placed in the computers or repaired. They were really satisfied with this **job** and its working atmosphere.

#### **Holy Trinity Primary School:**

Another student and me chose to gain our work experience in a primary school. Here we were involved in the lessons and could teach too. This, of course, meant a lot of **speaking and openness** to other people. We were sure that this was a worthwhile experience.

In summary, we can just appeal to every student to avail himself of the opportunity to acquire such a great experience. It will make you more independent, self-confident and fluent in speaking English