



## Anna Sophie - A Month in the Life of a Blind Student at MLS

This Summer we were pleased to welcome Anna Sophie, from Denmark, who has been blind from birth. She is used to being the only blind person, but she was more surprised to be the only Danish student in the college, which made her feel rather proud.



At the end of her 4 weeks at MLS Anna is pleased with her progress and has noticed a definite improvement in her English, particularly in listening and in her ability to speak more fluently. Her General English schedule included a self-study period, which she really appreciated. This gave her the opportunity to collate her notes and process everything she had learned in the group lessons.

Full course documentation was provided in advance of her stay and our Deputy Director of Studies has been converting all of the course materials ahead of class into a format that is readable for Anna. This enabled her to fully participate in the lessons. All of the teachers and students have been working to verbalise the visual aspects of the course, including describing the pictures from the course materials and making sure that everything written on the board was spelled and described out loud. This, of course, has been very positive for everyone's English progress!

Anna has felt herself to be very much part of the college community. The other students at MLS have been absolutely brilliant and she has made lots of friends. Not only has she played an active part in the lessons, but she has also taken part in a range of social activities.



### Horse riding

"The horse riding and cooking dinner with other students afterwards was very, very enjoyable. It was an amazing day."



### MLS Summer Boat Party

"I wish the Boat Party was longer... until midnight! I absolutely loved it!"

### Conversation Club

"The MLS Conversation Club is awesome! It's so crowded and a really good place to meet people."

She was also welcomed to the Bournemouth Blind Society, where she was lucky enough to make friends with a woman of a similar age to herself. Another advantage to attending events with them, such as archery, was that she was in touch with a group of native speakers!

There was also very high praise for her homestay family host, Helen. Anna said, "It is not often that you meet people that you get along with so well. It is going to be hard to deal with the fact that I'm going home and I am not going to have her as a companion. I have enjoyed every moment and every second of the time I have spent with her."

Thank you to the Bournemouth Blind Society for all their support and advice and thank you to MLS students for being so thoughtful and kind. Thank you, too, to Anna, for choosing MLS!

