

"University for Kids"

"University for Kids"! Under this motto, around 35 pupils from the third classes of the primary school in Goldscheuer came on the 28th of June to visit the University of Applied Sciences Kehl. The initiative came from Sandra Molines, headmaster of the Goldscheuer primary school, Prof. Dr. Annegret Eppler and Prof. Dr. Jörg Röber. At short notice, a small group of teachers and administrative staff at the university, together with Rector Molines and the class teachers Katharina Lucas and Franziska Börner, put together a 3-hour programme. On 28 June 2023, the time had come and the pupils arrived in Kehl early in the morning by public transport from Goldscheuer.

They were welcomed in seminar room 008 of the university and sat in the seats where "real" students normally attend their lectures. There, the children discussed what it means to study with Prof. Dr. Annegret Eppler, Prof. Dr. Jörg Röber and three students from the two Bachelor's programmes "Public Management" and "Digital Administrative Management": Why do you actually study? What subjects are there and where do you study what? How old are students? Where do they live? And what does a professor actually do?

Afterwards, the children went on a rally through the university. In small groups, led by students Fabian Wesch and Klemens Weberpals as well as Sonja Martin, an employee of the Service Centre for Studies and Teaching and co-responsible for the Kehl Master's programmes, the children gained an insight into very different areas of the university. They filled out a questionnaire that revolved around the individual "stations". First, they were able to take a quick look at the auditorium and saw how the third-semester students were listening to civil law with Prof. Dr. Sascha Kiefer in the large lecture hall; in seminar rooms, they saw how Prof. Dr. Jürgen Fischer was conducting "team training" with students and lecturers for the subject projects coming up in the winter semester. They crept into the library on quiet soles and were equally impressed by the multitude of books and the students studying intently for exams. In a seminar room, they met Julian Biehler, research assistant at the EU-funded Jean Monnet Chair "ELEMENT", who explained to them the everyday life of a student on the basis of a VSV, a timetable and exams and showed them pictures of student life: university radio, summer festival, Lubu game, dormitory parties.

The staff of the university administration contributed to the impression of great hospitality that the university left on the students and teachers of the primary school, according to Principal Sandra Molines. Renée Arnold, head of the university's press office, met the students early in the morning to welcome them and then received them later in her office. She explained what a press officer does, how the new university app works and promised the children an article in the university newspaper "Klartext". Katja Heinsch, a staff member in the International Office and the Faculty Secretariat, welcomed the pupils to the International Office and discussed with them and the American intern Paige Kendall what role languages play, what the flags of different countries look like and how the International Office enables students to do an internship abroad. The rally was supported by university caretaker Arnulf Beierlein and, last but not least, by the university canteen. In the refectory, the children learned that the university serves up to 500 meals a day, that students are most happy when burgers are on the menu and they were allowed to sit down at a refectory table where they were invited for an ice cream by Rector Prof. Dr. Joachim Beck.

After a break in the courtyard of the Kehl University of Applied Sciences, the first real lecture for the pupils was still to come from Prof. Dr. Jörg Röber and Prof. Dr. Annegret Eppler about the border between Kehl and Strasbourg and about European unification. Using the example of the joint French-German fireboat on the Rhine, Jörg Röber explained the obstacles and success factors of cross-border cooperation. Annegret Eppler discussed with the children the different EU states, explained the

European flag and what great achievements have been made through European unification. In the process, each child was given their own small European flag.

Time flew... suddenly there was a knock at the door and to everyone's amazement, "Öffi", the big blue university mascot, came into the seminar room. Öffi had heard that children are at the university and did not miss the opportunity to hand out a children's university diploma to the pupils. With many new impressions and an appetite for university and student life, the children headed home to Goldscheuer with Principal Molines and the class teachers, where they started their school day again with their usual lunch break.