

KWAYA Choir in Meppel, the Netherlands

From May 15 to 18, 2025, the KWAYA choir from VOŠ, OA, SPgŠ and SZŠ Most went on a concert tour to Meppel, the partner city of Most in the Netherlands.

The choir performed in two senior homes, where we delighted the local residents not only with our lively singing but also with our cheerful spirit—we had to keep adding more and more songs. The atmosphere was amazing, and it was a great pleasure for us to bring joy to the seniors.

We had great success at the Meppel Music Festival, where we also sang two songs together with the orchestra De Bazuin: *Andante* by ABBA and *Het Meppeler Torenlied*, the most famous song from Meppel, dating back to 1932. Although rehearsing the song—especially getting the pronunciation right—was quite a challenge, we received admiration and enthusiastic applause for performing it so emotionally. For the people of Meppel, this song is truly a heartfelt matter, which we also noticed in the senior homes when we sang it as an encore—people joined in with us.

Besides the performances, our guides—members of the partnership organization—arranged a tour of the local windmill, including an expert explanation and the opportunity to try grinding grain and lifting a sack of flour. We thanked them for the wonderful tour and their hospitality with a song, and we even received a gift bag with flour to take home.

We thoroughly enjoyed the entire trip, and we were lucky to have beautiful sunny weather throughout our stay.

I would like to sincerely thank our guides Najib Ouaamar and Wim Sagel and especially Bart van den Dolder for their kindness, excellent organization of our stay, and arranging the performances. We truly appreciate it. A big thank you also goes to the members of the partnership organization and foundation for inviting us to Meppel—we are very happy we had the chance to sing for you. It was an honor for us to represent our school, our city, and our country.

It was truly a warm and heartfelt meeting, and we are already looking forward to the next one.

Hana Jíchová, Choir Director of KWAYA