

My time in Italy

Let me first explain why I am here in Bergamo Airport near Milan, Italy. After the Euros when England lost to Italy, there were horrible words said on the internet to some of the players. This made me feel really sad so it must have made them feel sad too, I didn't like this, so I wrote a letter to the players. First, I wrote to Marcus Rashford, after this I also wrote to Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka.

My letter to Marcus went viral and I spent the next few days giving radio and TV interviews; it was crazy. A few months later an organisation called **Fair Play Festival** contacted me and invited me to come and stay and be a part of their festival in Milan. Fair Play Festival is about celebrating good sportsmanship, respect and loyalty. So, I obviously said yes, I was just so excited to go! I had to do a Covid test that was negative, well, you know that as I'm here.

So here is what I got up to... When I first arrived in Italy I got taken to a restaurant and had the most amazing pizza; it was the best pizza I have ever had. My dad and I then headed to the festival for the first time. I had to read my letter out for everybody and then I got asked lots of questions. Luckily, I had a translator as all of the questions were being asked in Italian by Carlo Genta, an Italian sports journalist. I did learn how to say hello and thank you though! I also got to meet Andrea Zorzi who is an Olympic volleyball player and Alessandro Carvani a Paralympian who gave me a signed copy of his new book. They were really nice and had lots of inspiring stories - they even knew my story before they met me, they said they loved my letter.



The next day of the festival I was meant to be playing a football match, but the torrential rain and thunder and lightning meant it wasn't safe and was cancelled. Instead, I met the team that I would have been playing with and they presented me with a football shirt that had a quote from my letter on. I was then given an even bigger surprise to see that everyone was wearing one of these football shirts!

Then on my last day we had some free time to explore Milan. We visited lots of the sights including the Duomo di Milano and Via Monte Napoleone and we were given some tickets to visit the Museum of Illusion; this was really cool, and my favourite part was the 'upside-down' room. We then took the metro back to the airport ready to fly home!

It was my first-time visiting Italy; I met some really friendly people and I hope to go back to the festival again next year!

