

## **REPORT ON THE TRANSNATIONAL MEETING to Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex, UK**

This short-term meeting makes the mobility of teachers and students possible within the cooperation project for innovation and the exchange of good practices. It is the last one among the planned mobilities for the period 2015-2018 in the strategic partnership among European schools named "**How It Is To Live, Study And Work In A Foreign EU Country**", a KA2 – Erasmus Plus project.

**PERIOD: 15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**PARTICIPANTS:** students and teachers from 9 different EU schools. The countries involved are Italy (2 schools: Scordia and Rovigo), the UK, the Netherlands, Finland, Spain, the Basque Countries, Poland and Estonia.

**HOSTING SCHOOL: Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex, UK.**

### **AIMS OF THE MEETING:**

- allowing students to experience family life and living in the English village of Newport and nearby area;
- offering students the chance of understanding the organization of the British education system, with specific reference to training periods of school-to-work transition, traineeship and apprenticeship;
- granting students the opportunity to get to know about the socio-economical and cultural scenario of the hosting county of Essex, the city of London, the towns of Saffron Walden and Cambridge.
- giving students the occasion of acquiring new awareness about the urgent need to get the right skills to face the rapidly evolving labour market;
- interacting through a foreign language. On this occasion, namely, British English.

### **ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED INSIDE THE SCHOOL PREMISES:**

- welcome speech delivered by the Principal, Mr G. Farquhar and the Erasmus Project referent, Mr Graham Hesketh, in the Main Hall of the Joyce Frankland Academy in Newport;
- presentation and guided tour of the premises. This school, which is 530 years old, is still growing. Within a few years the number of students will rise to 1200;
- report by the British students on the organization of the national school system, school-to-work transition periods, traineeship and apprenticeship in the UK;
- report on previous mobilities presented by the students involved in them;
- conference in the main hall of the Frankland Academy - Guests: Ms Kemi Badenoch (MP for Saffron Walden and Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party), Mr William Hall (Border Force officer at Stansted Airport) and Dr Marie Orr (Astra Zeneca Plc). They talk about the numerous and important study and work opportunities that this area offers, the importance for students of carrying out significant experiences in order to understand one's attitudes and interests and find the right career. In particular, the MP, Ms Badenoch answers to questions about the Brexit referendum and explains the recent issue of the Windrush generation.
- "Fish 'n Chips plus Quiz night", inside the main hall. A funny and well-organized evening sharing typical food and competing on a quiz contest with teachers, students and hosting families.
- completing and submitting evaluation questionnaires on line about the experience, to be eventually uploaded on E-Twinning.

### **ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE HOSTING SCHOOL/VISITS TO CULTURAL SITES:**

- London: visit to the Houses of Parliament. Guided tour of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. We learn how and where the Queen herself, the ministers and party leaders move around the houses respecting ancient ceremonies and keeping traditions alive. We hear from the guide details about how political agreements are carried out and learn much more about Britain's political activities and features. Visit to Covent Garden, a tourist magnet.

- Visit to Stansted Airport, the key catalyst for economic growth and productivity in the East of England and the biggest single site employer in the region with over 13,000 working for over 200 airport companies. Meeting with some members of the Border Force, a section of the major local Police Department. Officer Mrs Whitehouse Venia explains what challenges this body has to face on a daily basis. She explains how different police departments have started working together under the same umbrella since 2012 as it made common sense. As a matter of fact, immigration started in the East End of London in 1905 and Customs controls started in 1909. The officer describes the different types of Border Force bodies existing (Seaport Department, Airport Force, those in charge of Postal Depots or Rail Termini, Maritime Cutters, Dog Teams). Then the group listens to other Border officers who show fake documents, smuggled feline furs, elephant tusks, turtle carapaces, unthinkable hideouts for drugs. Apprenticeship courses can be taken at the age of 17 and last 18 months in order to become Assistant Officer while for a higher position a special exam and a five subjects GCSE exam including Maths and English must be taken. (Suggested site: <https://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/jobs.cgi/>). Visit to the viewing platform.
- Visit of Saffron Walden: historical centre and weekly market.
- Visit to a local chocolate maker.
- Meeting the Major of Saffron Walden reporting about the local scenario from a social and economic point of view.
- Visit of Cambridge, tourist and cultural hub;

#### **VISITS TO LOCAL COMPANIES:**

- Visit of the Cambridge Regional College: meeting with representatives and tutors of the college guiding the tour around the college. Ms Michelle Dowse presents the different streams, facilities and temporary job opportunities. Mr Santorelli explains international students' applying procedures, gives information about fees and financial support. Then Miss Munteanu Daniela takes us on a tour of the College. She explains that it provides opportunities for drop-out students and also adults who need to find a different track in order to find a new job. Applicants can follow courses for mechanics, hairdressers, hospitality, art and graphic design. The College offers recreation rooms and activities, a library and helps students to find part time jobs to pay for their expenses which include accommodation. Cambridge is very expensive as regards rents and a rent can be 120£ per week. The school facilitates the research of an accommodation.
- Visit of Anglia Ruskin University and of the Centre for International Students of the University of Cambridge (UCAS). Admission talk by member from International Recruitment Team. Introduction to the main steps to be followed in case of enrolment.
- Visit at ASTRA ZENECA Plc., a parapharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical giant which is an Anglo-Swedish multinational company. In 2013 it moved its headquarters to Cambridge, UK. This innovative company employs over 6,300 employees in the UK. Mrs Marie Orr presents the company's mission and expertise. Videos are shown and Erasmus students are involved in hands-on experiments. Attending conference on Science Career Talks from AZ Graduates (including former Erasmus students).

#### **ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE:**

- This visit has been perfectly organized thanks to the collaboration among the teachers of the hosting school as well as the families. The possibility to use the facilities and the large rooms inside the school premises, together with the synergic effort among the school itself and the local authorities as well as the local companies, has further contributed to the successful realization of this transnational meeting in Newport. The hosting families with their generous hospitality and friendliness have made the experience unforgettable.

Rovigo, 23/04/2018

The teachers

Proff. Silvia Agnoletto and Lorena Bevilacqua