

As declared in our vision statement, our school strives to create motivating circumstances where every student can aim to become a life-long learner. Additionally, our students' families feel an increasing necessity for skills that will enable their children to succeed in an international environment. In order to support these aims, we seek ways to facilitate the development of our students' abilities to build and maintain international connections. The key fields to focus on are English language skills and digital competencies. In order to help students improve in those fields, we commit ourselves to building international connections, mainly by increasing our eTwinning activity. The aim of the present Erasmus+ KA1 mobility project is to prepare the teachers who will play an active part in our future innovation programme aiming at sustainable international communication between our students and students in different European countries. The first part of the preparation period will comprise learning mobilities in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Spain. As a follow-up, the teachers who take part in the staff mobility will share the skills and experiences they will have acquired with the other teachers of the school. Our main fields of interest are English language and culture, methodology in the English classroom, school management, 21st century educational technology and methodology in the fields of sport, visual arts and environmental awareness.

The two-year mobility programme includes two-week teacher training courses for ten staff members. During the summer of 2020, an arts teacher will complete a course in methodology for the arts classroom in Barcelona. Secondly, one of our PE teachers will study English and do a course in methodology for teachers of PE in Drogheda and Dublin. Next, a science teacher will learn about educational technology in Oxford. The deputy headmistress of our school – an English teacher – will take a course in management focusing on creativity, innovation and emotional intelligence in York. Finally, a lower-primary-school teacher will have the chance to improve her English speaking skills with an intensive general English course and an English teacher will take a course in 21 century educational technology in Cambridge. During the summer of 2021, our pedagogical assistant will learn English and also take a course in teaching environmental awareness in Drogheda. In the meantime, an English teacher will enroll in a course in language and methodology for teachers of English as a foreign language in Exeter and our headmistress – a science teacher – will improve her English language skills at a general English course in Oxford. Finally, another English teacher will learn about effective use of technology in teaching in Scarborough.

We expect that the mobility programme will energize our teaching staff as well as our students. It will turn the whole school's attention towards studying abroad and the importance of learning English as a foreign language. The teachers' willingness to learn will serve as an

example of life-long learning for the students. All participants will improve their English language skills as well as the targeted teacher competencies. Not only will the mobilities give way to an international exchange of ideas and experience, they will also provide a great opportunity to make connections for future eTwinning projects. Consequently, the programme will enhance the possibility of a sustainable, generally accessible way of providing students with an informal learning opportunity in the fields of English language acquisition and digital competencies.