



ERASMUS Full STEAM Ahead Staff Survey Results

September 2020

**Gymnasium
auf der
Karthause**

ELITESCHULE DES SPORTS

Meadowhead School
Academy Trust



Q1. Please rate (on a scale of 1-5) your enjoyment of your participation in this project

13

Responses



4.92 Average Rating

Q2. If you took part in an **overseas exchange or transnational visit**, what was the impact on you personally and professionally?

- I got to know two very different cities and school systems. I exchanged a lot of material, especially for the bilingual lessons. I made good friends and will keep in touch with them after the end of the project. As a coordinator, I got to know the Erasmus system a lot better and even got a promotion in my school. I improved my language skills in both English and Spanish.
- I was able to work and plan with colleagues from Spain and Germany which enabled me to get a clearer idea as to how the educational systems in other countries operate.
- Sharing of ideas with colleagues in other schools. Greater reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of my personal practice. Cultural mind opening in many ways. Improved relationships with students after working with them in this very different context outside the classroom. New friends and treasured memories.
- Personally, I enjoyed the cooperative working environment during the visits. Professionally, I learnt a lot about different school cultures. Generally, I increased my job satisfaction a lot.
- The visit gave me a great opportunity to learn about compulsory and higher education, career guidance, the job market and culture in Spain. I got the opportunity to work and socialise with colleagues from UK, Germany and Spain which developed my intercultural understanding. As the visit took place in the early part of the three year project, it gave me the opportunity to get to know students I would be working with for the next three years. I saw these students grow in confidence and develop their skills as the week progressed. It was a memorable and invaluable experience both professionally and personally. It also resulted in me taking up Spanish lessons.
- Improved my level of English, learnt about other ways of working and organization of schools in other countries.
- Personally , I enjoyed getting to know work colleagues better, and professionally it was educational to see how teaching is done in another country .
- Could not be more professionally and personally gratifying. Was able to see how students were able to learn news topics related to STEAM, how teams from different countries did interact in a deep way and had time to acquire how schools from other countries did organize and where run differently from ours. On the other these activities where the best ones in the project, and we made great bounds will other teams.
- The positive impact of the student exchanges and transnational visits for staff cannot be underestimated for all participants. I have developed strong STEAM knowledge and skills, and better intercultural understanding which will help me in my role in school. I have learnt basic German, improved my Spanish and enhanced my project management skills. I have developed stronger relationships with my colleagues in all 3 countries and new ones with students who travelled and their families.
- Professionally: It gave me a good insight into school organisation, organisation/ curricula of Science subjects of other countries. In that way it widened my horizon. In addition other activities including university and company visits and works shops gave me a good insight how universities and companies are organised. Personally: I was able to experience other cultures through many meetings, and thus learned to work in an international team. Also, I could practice other languages and I made new lovely friends.
- I really enjoyed the chance to travel to Germany. It was really interesting to see other schools approaches to STEAM subjects. I have really enjoyed the chance to make lifelong friends from other countries. I know these relationships built will lead to great opportunities in the future as well as on this project. I am passionate about promoting the STEAM subjects and making students aware of the large volume of careers available. Having a team of STEAM ambassadors will be a great asset to the school. This year has really broadened my horizons, changed me and I started to learn Spanish at Meadowhead adult evening classes. I am continuing to learn Spanish and getting there slowly but loving it. I am now keen to travel to see more of the world following these trips. Projects like this really highlight the importance of working together internationally. This project gave me the confidence to organise and lead an international visit to CERN, Switzerland at the start of March 2020. These kinds of experiences are once in a lifetime and create life long memories for students enhancing their passion for STEM.I have become more aware of the wide variety of careers and opportunities available for students. It's been great to see the development of our ambassadors (this is a massive understatement – this project has been life changing for all the students on the project) and I know they will play a key role encouraging students to get involved and to pursue STEAM subjects. I am looking forward to continue networking with the Spanish and German schools and learning from their approaches to STEAM.

Q3. How have you benefitted from taking part in ERASMUS activities in your school for this project duration? (personally and professionally)

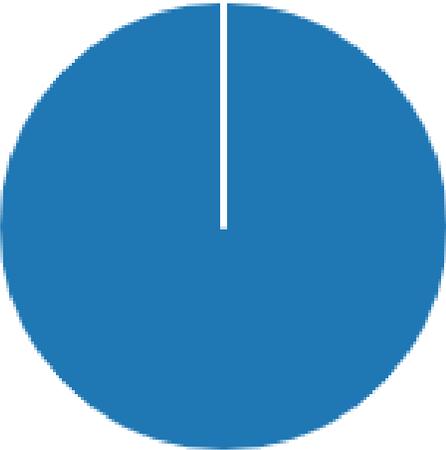
- I got to know students I did not teach. I improved my knowledge about STEAM related jobs and will be able to pass this knowledge on to future students. I made contacts with staff from universities and non-educational partners which will be useful for extracurricular activities in the future.
- It was brilliant to work with many different colleagues in different subject areas to enhance the learning opportunities of young people in all the schools involved.
- New links and relationships were formed across departments in my own school and with teachers abroad. This allowed us to work together creatively and to share ideas from very different perspectives. Professionally, the experience allowed me to be more self reflective professionally and it has opened up ideas and possibilities for future projects. Personally, the benefits are countless, and the workshops, visits and exchanges abroad have left me wanting to see and learn more from other cultures. Contacts made will hopefully be long term.
- I got a strong insight in the way how students from different cultures communicate and cooperate.
- Learned more about the organisation behind the Erasmus programmes.
- The activities encouraged me to continue taking an outward-looking approach to my professional work. Working across countries and with a broad range of colleagues and employers has given me the opportunity to look at how other countries, organisations and individuals do things and reflect on my own professional practice. It is always helpful to consider whether we can do things better or differently and the Erasmus activities encourage this. Personally, I benefitted from visiting a beautiful Spanish city, and experiencing Aragon Day. It also reminded me personally of the importance of collaboration and working together, despite Brexit.
- New professional contacts, improved language skills, new experience in organizing events.
- Personally it has introduced me to many more colleagues, professionally it has introduced to more resources to help me enthuse students with Maths .
- We have been able to see how students over three years have been able to interact with Steam subjects, to boost competences as communicating with other country peers and teamwork. Students have matured in a great way as most of them compromised their participation within the projects, mostly those who couldn't travel to Germany. On the personal side, I've made real friends who will stand even after ending the project.
- The positive impact of this project personally and professionally has been amazing. I have also developed good relationships with the student ambassadors who I wouldn't normally engage with, and enhanced and developed new business contacts for the benefit of our school. I have a better understanding of the STEAM related job market in all 3 countries, and the skills needed to succeed in those roles. I have also learnt new skills and improved STEAM subject related knowledge.
- I got promoted, which was partly because of the Erasmus activities.
- The in school activities were fantastic. We visited a wide variety of employers and the students enjoyed creating the promotional materials for the project. The Big Bang fair was very informative for them. We learnt a lot about the vast opportunities available to students.

Q4. What impact has the project had on the ambassadors over the past 3 years in your opinion?

- Our students did not only improve their language skills and their knowledge about STEAM, but they also became more independent and more confident throughout the project. Some got ideas about what to study in the future and will pursue these dreams after their A-Levels in March.
- I believe they have matured into well-rounded individuals who broaden their skills and also outlook in terms of STEAM subjects as well as being able to collaborate with others both within the school and also out (Spain & Germany).
- They gained enormously in confidence and have had their horizons broadened and their minds opened in ways that they would not have experienced without this opportunity.
- They benefitted a lot because they had were involved in the planning for other groups and thus had to act with great responsibility.
- This project has had a huge impact. It has been a privilege to see the ambassadors grow and develop over the three years. Students have commented on the development of their skills and confidence, and how lucky they feel to have been part of this project. Many experienced opportunities that they would never have tried before (travelling abroad, working with students from other countries, learning about STEAM across the three nations, drinking espresso and trying new foods).
- Knowing STEAM skills and the demand for these trainings in the labour market. Have the experience of getting to know other customs, make new friends and improve your social skills and communication in English
- Definitely an increased interest in Maths, a better appreciation of the application of Maths and on a personal level many have increased in general confidence.
- They have got into STEAM subjects deeply, enhancing important competences for the workplace as teamwork, responsibility and interest in learning new things.
- The ambassadors have learnt so much to enrich their STEAM knowledge outside the normal classroom environment, the project has had a real impact on their choices going forwards. For some, it has offered a chance to try new subjects that they wouldn't usually study and gain new skills including employability. Students feel more confident and are better communicators, better at team working and are more resilient as a result of the 3 year project. They have all matured so much which has been wonderful to see over the course of the project. The vast majority have chosen to follow STEAM pathways, which is positive and in part can be attributed to the success of the programme of activities brought by this project. Parents have been overwhelmingly positive and grateful for the opportunity as they have seen the benefit and how their child has grown and gained many new skills and knowledge, and really enjoyed taking part.
- It had a great impact on their future careers an STEAM subjects. It also helped them to become more open minded toward other cultures.
- The impact on the ambassadors has been enormous. They have gained in confidence, increased their awareness of the vast number of STEAM related jobs and gained an understanding of the importance of international working friendships. They have become great ambassadors who can talk to adults and their peers with confidence about the project and the STEAM subjects.

Q5. Would you recommend taking part in ERASMUS (or similar) projects to your colleagues in future?

● Yes	13
● No	0
● Unsure	0



100% = YES!

Q6. What has been the best part of the project for you?

- The exchange to Spain and hosting the exchange in Germany. The transnational meetings were also very useful and made the planning of the mobilities a lot easier.
- working with colleagues within the school and also from Spain and Germany. The planning meeting in Germany which I attended was excellent in terms of building professional and social links.
- Travelling and spending time with the staff and students.
- The farewell parties at the end of each section. These events proved the big success for teachers, students and the participating schools as a whole.
- Meeting colleagues from other countries and exchanging ideas with them.
- The range of activities and experiences for staff and students has been exceptional. For me, the highlights were seeing how the students benefitted from their international visit and getting to work with such a supportive and welcoming group of colleagues across UK, Spain and Germany.
- Meeting professionals who have contributed new ways of working that I can apply in my school. Improvement in my communication in English. New friendships.
- Introducing the application of Maths in a real life context to students .
- Interaction amongst students from different countries, workshops related to STEAM areas and the way our students and member of staff related to the project have evolved in a positive way. On our side, participating in this project has made other students and teachers join to other new projects and also we have been able to have different departments involved, and not just the Languages one. Impact for real.
- The opportunity to travel with staff and students to another country to help them to experience life in another school environment and understand different cultures has been very rewarding and thoroughly enjoyable for me personally.
- To work in a team with colleagues from other countries and get to know the different cultures.
- All of it :-) Especially the chance to go to another country to see how school life is. It was interesting seeing the same subjects being taught in another school. The highlight has to be the lifelong friends I have made in both Spain and Germany. The memories created during the transnational meetings and the passion it has given me to see more of the world which I didn't have before this project.

Q7. What (if anything) have you found challenging or had difficulties with?

- Of course covid-19 was the most challenging part of the project. Keeping students' motivation up during home -schooling and after the cancellation of the final exchange it was almost impossible.
- The pandemic caused the last year's exchange and meetings to not go ahead, which was the right course of action
- Running workshops requires time and planning and this is always an additional demand, but was always worth it.
- Adjusting the different organisational time frames of each country to find the best dates.
- Finding the time to contribute meaningfully alongside competing priorities has always been the biggest challenge. At times, it has been difficult to keep some students motivated and involved; I am sure this is a greater challenge over a long project. It was also a huge disappointment that we weren't able to invite the students and staff back to the UK and share our activities and culture with them to draw the project to a close.
- At first I had a hard time expressing myself in English
- The initial sell to pupils was challenging.
- Obviously COVID pandemic has been a holdback for all of us as the final mobility to England couldn't take place, which somewhat demotivated students who had been participating in the project for 3 years and couldn't travel.
- Time to fit everything in is always a challenge, and of course the pandemic did not help and put an abrupt end to our 3 year project which was really disappointing, not least since we could not host the final exchange to UK or host our carefully planned showcase and celebration event. We were all devastated.
- The scheduling of meetings and exchanges with three different countries was challenging.
- Time to meet as staff and with students. If there had been opportunities to get the students together during the school day could have helped parts of the project. Of course COVID stopping the events but hopefully in the future we can have an informal international get together.

Q8. Do you have any suggestions for improvement for future projects?

- Keep up transnational meetings!
- None
- Improved live links across the countries as technology was sometimes difficult to manage.
- Develop more contact activities between students online, email, mail, whastapp, etwinning ... to maintain and reinforce the ties that are generated in mobility
- I think everything went really well as we where just 3 schools involved and we had particlpated in previous projects. Maybe trying to better interact with ETwinning and having more Videoconference sessions throughout the life os the project, as mobility activities where too further apart.
- Make more use of tools like Zoom for staff project meetings which only became widely used during lockdown.
- Back-up plans in case student exchanges cannot take place.
- More time for staff and students to meet.

Q9. Any other comments?

I am looking forward to our future projects!

"It was my first participation in an Erasmus and I have loved the experience. I think it has helped me grow both personally and professionally. My thanks and friendship to all the participants in this project. I hope we can continue collaborating on more projects."

I feel so very privileged to have been a part of this. It's hard to put into words the impact this has had on me both personally and professionally. I know the students have benefitted greatly. Especially the chance to travel abroad which for a large number of our students they wouldn't have been able to afford. These projects are vital and I hope despite current political decisions these projects can continue as they are vital to students.

To establish Erasmus in schools it is necessary to involve a lot of different colleagues as some could be more supportive.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity. I will not forget it and hope to continue learning from the experience.

I will never forget the opportunities and experience the project has given me, It has been totally energising and inspiring.

Thanks to all the amazing ERASMUS staff teams and long may the collaboration between our 3 schools continue! It will be a real shame if UK schools are not be able to access crucial funding post BREXIT for these kinds of project which provide important and unique experiences for international staff CPD, and once in a lifetime opportunities for our most vulnerable students. "

Great concept!

Thank you to the various Erasmus agencies for the three-year funding of this project and their help and support throughout.