

‘MIDAS - MOTIVATING INTEREST IN DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS’

GLoucestershire COLLEGE | ALISON ALLEN

Partner schools

Vastse-Kuuste Kool, Estonia
Ies Los Olivos, Spain
Özel Ari İlköğretim Okulu, Turkey
Ari Private Middle School, Turkey
IISS "Volterra-Elia", Italy
Specjalny Ośrodek Szkolno - Wychowawczy, Poland

About the project

Gloucestershire College is one of the largest colleges in the UK. We have three main campus sites in Gloucester, Cheltenham and the Forest of Dean. Our eTwinning partners were from Turkey, Estonia, Spain, Poland and Italy.

Our eTwinning project was called **MIDAS - Motivating Interest in Determination to Achieve Success**. The aim of the project was to promote social relationships and develop social competences by bringing students from different countries together. As a team we were a range of schools across Europe providing a mix of: high achievers, special educational needs, deprived and affluent backgrounds. The diversity of everyone involved in the project meant we could really push the boundaries of teaching and learning.

Siiri Hommik, Vastse-Kuuste School, Estonia: “For our students eTwinning is a very useful platform for sharing ideas and project activities. We believe that using eTwinning enhanced the digital competence of our students/teachers and through that it increased their involvement and independence in the learning process.”

Fernando Escribano Martín, IES Los Olivos (Mejorada del Campo, Madrid):

“eTwinning was the key of the project, where we could show everything we have done. We could plan and talk about the project and how we could build on the project. eTwinning is our communication channel and the window to transparency.

eTwinning enabled us to plan the project and instantly share work and ideas. We used the twin space to showcase the work the students had completed. We chose the book *Life of Pi* for the student across all schools to read the book and watch the film. The students then created artwork, online discussion and Skype sessions to talk about the characters.”

Tyreke Edwards (Student) “I have always struggled with reading books but I wanted to read *Life of Pi* so I could join in the discussions with the other students. I have read more books since!”



The aim of the project was to break down barriers to learning through hands-on experience and life skill development. To break down barriers to learning we used art to inspire creativity, confidence building through drama and song and cultural awareness. Students researched each country we shared our project with and we prepared and ate traditional foods from our partner countries. eTwinning enabled the teachers to combine and embed the key skills of Literacy, numeracy, ICT, health and safety and equality and diversity. The students were learning key skills and soft skills by sharing and communicating with their eTwinning friends.

Zena Rawling (student) "before the eTwinning project I had never heard of Estonia, now I have friends who live there"

For students eTwinning is a safe environment to work in. Everyone has the same contacts across Europe and friendships are built with a common interest and goal. Teachers have an opportunity to share and learn from each other. Lifetime friendships made for teachers and students.

The use of eTwinning and Erasmus+ will develop skills for life, inspire young people to become independent adults and increase employability.

Winner of the National and European Quality Label 2013/14.

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