



Erasmus+



Erasmus+ Study Visit to Salerno, Italy

14th -21st October 2017



Background

The summer of 2017 saw the end of our first Erasmus+ project, a 3-year programme to mark the centenary of the First World War. However this was not the end of our involvement with our European neighbours as we had a bid for a further project accepted and off we were again our travels.

The Erasmus+ funding secured from the European Union, is enabling us to work with 6 European partner schools for a further 3 years (4 of whom were part of the first project) on another collaborative project to look at cultural diversity with a focus on **immigration and its contribution to our societies**. Its slogan is translated as "Unite our hearts without borders". A further aim of this project is to examine how our own communities are and will in future be affected by increased migration from other parts of Europe and beyond. We are seeking to learn from each other's experiences to help the transition of young migrants into our local communities and in particular into our schools.

For our students the potential of the project is vast. It gives them the opportunity to develop their language skills (French and English are the two working languages) whilst also improving their knowledge of the cultures, traditions and outlooks of people in the other participating countries. Our boys have the chance to talk with their peers from other countries about issues which affect young

people in an ever-changing European landscape, and even with Brexit around the corner, we hope that our students will still feel very much citizens of Europe.

Art and craft feature strongly in the new project with workshops in the programme of events to produce finished pieces during each visit. We want our students to visit new places, experience different cultures and traditions, try new foods, and meet people and forge friendships which last well into the future.

Salerno, October 2017

Salerno were the hosts of the first round of visits and exchanges. The city is in the area of Campania in the South-West of Italy and is the capital of the province of the same name. It is located on the Gulf of Salerno on the Tyrrhenian Sea. The city is divided into three distinct zones: the medieval sector, the 19th century sector and the more densely populated post-war area, with its several apartment blocks. Salerno is located just under 40 miles from Naples, and is within easy reach of Pompeii, Mount Vesuvius National Park and the popular Amalfi coast with its many beaches and the popular holiday destination of Sorrento.



For this first exchange Mosslands were represented three of our Year 10 students – Matthew Noyce, Alex Sandham and Alistair Marsh, accompanied by Mr Wilmin from the Languages Department, our Headteacher Mr Whiteley, and Ms Jones from the Geography Department. We were pleased to be able to take these three boys as their families had very kindly hosted overseas students during the last Erasmus+ project. With the different experiences and expertise of students and staff alike, we were confident of a very successful and socially-rewarding visit. Our students were required to do some research prior to the visit, and prepare a short presentation about their school and local area, which they had to present to other nations at the host Italian school in Salerno.

We had a very varied and culturally-diverse programme of events – in school the boys took part in a ceramics craft session, and were able to take away their creations. In addition, they learned a lot about the migrant issues facing our other partner schools and countries, and they helped to collate a glossary of key vocabulary and phrases that a migrant might need when they initially arrive in a new country, particularly if they have entered as a refugee or are seeking asylum.

The week in Salerno was supplemented with trips to some stunning sights of historical, geographical and culture interest. These included visits to the Paestum, famous for its three well-preserved ancient Greek temples dating from about 600 BC, the ancient site of Pompeii with the backdrop of Mount Vesuvius, and the Amalfi Coast with its fishing ports and small towns with houses almost carved into the steep rock. We will never forget the sight of almost 100 buffalo at the Mozzarella farm in Paestum, or the final evening with dinner in the grounds of Salerno castle with spectacular views over the whole bay, or Mr Whiteley's birthday celebrations, and because the school was predominantly a catering college, our sumptuous lunches were presented with great artistry.

