

# INTERNATIONAL LINKS AT WASHINGBOROUGH ACADEMY



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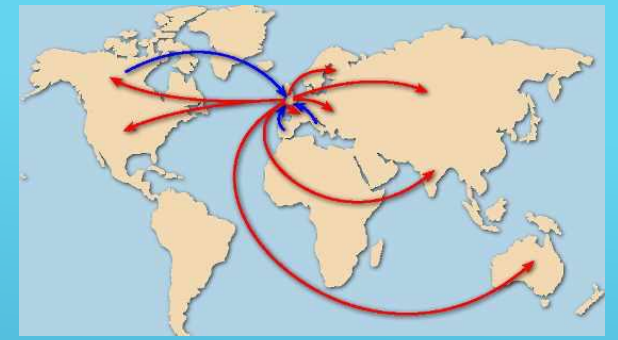


# MY BACKGROUND

- ▶ Studied Geography at Plymouth University
- ▶ Worked as an Air Hostess with Emirates in Dubai
- ▶ Studied my PGCE in Hereford
- ▶ First teaching job in a Free School in London
- ▶ 2014 joined Washingborough Academy



# MY PASSION FOR INTERNATIONAL LINKS



- ▶ My experience of travelling the world through working with Emirates and seeing other countries, cultures and religions first hand made me feel very privileged of having that opportunity.
- ▶ The job gave me the life skills I needed to work in a global world e.g. communicating with people from all walks of life – from Sheikhs through to the poorest of people taking part in the Hajj.
- ▶ Working in Ilford London as a Newly Qualified Teacher, in a school where 90% of the pupils had English as their second language, was a daunting prospect but due to my experience and skills I was able to succeed.
- ▶ Moving to Lincoln was an eye opener due to the lack of diversity and how many of the children have not experienced the world beyond Lincolnshire itself.

# MY ROLE AS INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR



- ▶ When joining Washingborough Academy in 2014 the Headteacher (Jason O'Rourke) assigned me to the role as International Coordinator due to my enthusiasm and experience.
- ▶ Mr O'Rourke also shared my passion for broadening the children's mindset on a more global level. Not just studying religions and helping countries that are in need but to create excitement in exploring other cultures including their language, history and food.
- ▶ The school had one link at the time with a school in France where children in one class wrote letters to each other.
- ▶ The first project was to gain the British Council International Award.

# BRITISH COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL AWARD



“This globally recognised accreditation helps you enrich learning and improve teaching by guiding your international learning activities, from introducing international education into the curriculum to embedding it within your school’s culture.”

## ► Why international education?

International education enriches teaching and learning. It introduces educators to new practices and perspectives, furthering their professional development and raising teaching standards. It gives young people a window into different cultures and countries, helping them develop as responsible global citizens and preparing them for life and work in a global society.

## ➤ Accreditation Requirements

Seven curriculum-based international activities they will undertake within the current academic year. Three of these activities must be done with partners in other countries, and one must contain an element of foreign language learning.

# EXAMPLES OF THE ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE AWARD:

## ▶ Spanish Fiesta:

1. Traditional Spanish dance
2. Food tasting
3. Spanish language



## ▶ Chinese New Year

Dance, arts and crafts, food tasting session and a Chinese visitor to discuss traditions.

## ▶ Fair Trade

Children will learn about where certain foods come from, such as cocoa beans. They will learn about the inequality of pay by and have the opportunity to discuss and debate what a fair wage for all would look like. They will then learn about how the fair trade premium helps to support the workers. Finally, they will bake a chocolate cake using Fair Trade chocolate.

# IMPACT OF AWARD



## ▶ School

“It has become evident that our teachers have been more confident in adding global learning in their lessons more readily. As an academy we have redeveloped our curriculum to ensure that community cohesion and the international dimension are key elements and that learning opportunities which link into our topics are included for all classes. We have written an International Policy which has been shared with Governors and staff alike; this has played a key part in regards to planning for the next academic year.”

## ▶ Pupils

“The variety of activities have had a great impact on the students across all year groups in terms of their appreciation of global issues and cooperation with pupils from other countries.

For example during our Spanish Fiesta project, which all our Key Stage 2 children took part in, which included cooking tapas, debating about bullfighting and researching facts about the country in the form of a quiz - in the feedback forms from the pupils such comments were:

“Today helped with my Spanish lessons because the Spanish teacher could teach us about some foods and I would now know the answer so it has improved my learning”.

“I enjoyed the cooking part the most because I got to try new food that I hadn't had before”.

## ➤ Community:

“During our celebration of the Chinese New Year the parents and family members were able to take part and join their children on this celebration. The Foundation Stage Two children held an assembly and we also had a child's parent, who are Chinese, come and hold an activity where the children learnt about the origins of Chinese lanterns and even made their own. In addition, our year 4 children participated in the Local Agricultural show, entering the Schools Challenge competition. For this we had to link with a country from a different continent and find out about farming across the globe.”

# BRITISH COUNCIL – SHAKESPEARE LIVES PROJECT



- ▶ 7 schools in Lincolnshire and 7 schools in Tangshan, China involved.
- ▶ UKS2 last year studied the play Hamlet where a variety of activities took place including writing letters, play scripts, drama and art. Our partner school mirrored this. We sent work and videos to each other which excited the children and gave a real life reason to write and to study the play write.
- ▶ In October Jason O'Rourke and I visited the 7 schools in Tangshan where a range of performances and tours were held.
- ▶ Our partner school was TANGSHAN LUNAN SHENGLILU PRIMARY SCHOOL





# SHAKESPEARE LIVES PROJECT - OUTCOMES

## ➤ Outcomes:

- Assembly held to share our experience; new playground games
- UKS2 theme for two terms was 'Forbidden City'
- Chris Williams (British Council Ambassador) held a talk for UKS2 on the Terracotta Army
- LKS2 studied the Tangshan Earthquake with a guest speaker
- Celebrated International Education week (14.11.16 -18.11.16) we linked this with an arts week where all children in the whole school participated. Each key stage produced some pottery due to the link with our partner school
- Our partner school has set aside a piece of wasteland to grow their own fruit and vegetables which was inspired by Mr Chen Bin's visit to Washingborough Academy
- Secure links with other schools in the area to work alongside with.





# ERASMUS + PROJECT



- ▶ This Action is all about enabling organisations to work together in order to improve their provision for learners and share innovative practices.
- ▶ Under Key Action 2 organisations can apply for funding to work in partnership with organisations from other participating countries.
- ▶ The projects funded under this Key Action will focus on sharing, developing and transferring innovative practices in education, training and youth provision between participating countries.



# ERASMUS PROJECT – READ, WRITE, EAT



- ▶ Last February teachers from No 8 School in Elblag Poland visited our school during this visit we decided to apply for a European project together along with a school in Slovenia.
- ▶ I am the lead on this project and therefore completed a long and complicated application which we were successful in! The project is based on creating real life reasons for children to read and write. All children in UKS2 are completing the activities but we are focusing on our most vulnerable children i.e. Pupil Premium in Year 5 to see how their thoughts and writing skills develop and progress due to the project.
- ▶ Over the next 2 years we will hold 2 visits in total and teachers from Washingborough will visit the schools in Poland and Slovenia twice which is funded by the project.
- ▶ We have received funds which is £500 for each month for the next 2 years to help facilitate the project i.e. resources, supply for me to organise project etc.
- ▶ We have held two successful project meetings in England and Slovenia where the children in the whole school participated in singing songs, sharing work and celebrating the visits.
- ▶ Each school got a lot out of the visit and currently implementing teaching methods observed into their own classrooms.

# EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES:



- ▶ Activity 1 – ‘Get to know you’ – Descriptive writing/ Formal writing/ Non-fiction /Letter writing/Reading

As an introduction to the three partner schools children will write a descriptive letter about themselves, school and town. These will be then sent on to each partner school which will be shared and read. The children will then reply to these letters. This activity will continue and develop into sending emails to include the use of Literacy ICT throughout the two year project.

Children will also put together a PowerPoint with the inclusion of photographs and videos to share information about each school.

- ▶ Activity 2 – ‘Cook to Write’ – Non-fiction/ Formal writing/ Instructional/Reading

The children will select a recipe of a traditional dish from their country or town i.e. Washingborough Academy -Lincolnshire Plum loaf, No.8 School - Rye Bread and OS Brusnice - Potica. The children will make their local dish and then write a description of the dish and also their own instructions on how to make it. These will be shared with the partner schools where they will then make the dishes from the other schools and complete the writing tasks. ICT will also be included to create a video and photographs to share through eTwinning and YouTube.

- ▶ Activity 3 – ‘Delicious Poetry’ – Descriptive writing/Poetry/Reading – Meeting in June in Poland to assess this piece of writing.

Each school will hold Literacy topic on poetry and from this the children will select one poem based around the theme of ‘food’ and analyse the poem. From this children will then create their own poetry around the theme of food. These will also then be shared and read by the children in the partner schools.



ANY QUESTIONS?

