

## Erasmus Project Report

This main theme of the project was "Open Minds, Open Borders". At first, we had to collect pictures and video footage regarding this theme during the winter holidays. The project was set in Tunbridge Wells, a town in Kent, south-east of London, at Bennett memorial Diocesan School.

We had no idea what the project consisted in exactly until we got to the school, where we were informed about the program for the week in detail. We were informed the project was based on the collection and editing of pictures and video footage in London.

Monday was dedicated to getting to know the students we were going to work with for the week and getting familiar with the equipment we were going to use. The first activity we carried out was icebreakers. We were divided in groups of 4-5 people, including teachers, and we had two piles of cards, one low risk and the other high risk. Each card had a task to perform or a question to answer for whoever picked it. I found this to be very useful just to start chatting with the other students. After that we were divided into our work groups for the week. Each group was made up of three students, one from Bennett and two from other countries. We were given DSLR cameras with the assignment to walk around the school grounds and get the hang of how they worked. After lunch we went for a walk in Tunbridge Wells with the cameras, and we collected some material for the project.

On Tuesday we went on a trip to London to collect more material. Each group was given three cameras, one for recording video, one to take HD pictures and the last one to take pictures to make stop motion animations. We walked in the less touristic part of the city while collecting material regarding the main theme. Our walk ended with a visit to the Tate modern art museum.

On Wednesday we went through the material we had collected and selected the best shots to edit. The first activity my group carried out was video editing in Final Cut Pro of the stop motion animations. After that we did photo editing in Photoshop of some of the HD pictures we had taken.

On Thursday my group did monoprinting with some of our HD pictures in the first part of the morning, and the rest of the morning and the afternoon all the groups reunited and we started producing a video that contained the video footage taken in London, the animations, some of the pictures we had taken and the material we had collected during the winter holidays. On Friday morning we completed the videos and added an interview about the project that was shot the day before. In the afternoon an exposition with all of our work was set up in the Tunbridge Wells mall, and our host families came to see it. On Saturday we got back to Italy, after a 12 hour long trip. I found this experience to be very positive, as I got to know a lot of people from all over Europe. I also acquired skills that I would have never looked into if it weren't for this project. I feel like the project definitely achieved the main goal, which was to have us be more open minded to people from other places. My host family was very welcoming and I spent lots of quality time with them. I also picked up the piano again after 5 years thanks to my host family.