



Newsletter Issue 3 June 2015

Summer Newsletter

As we are nearing the end of term this will be our last newsletter until September.

Upcoming Events

Llangollen Eisteddfod

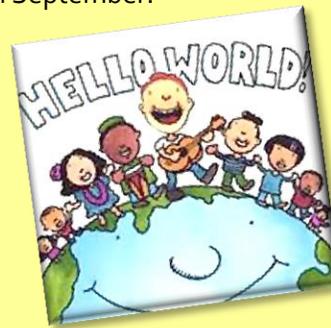
This year from Tuesday 7th July until Saturday 11th July we will be at Llangollen Eisteddfod. We will be working with the Europe Direct Centre based in ECTARC in Llangollen to staff an information stand.

We will have a lot of generic information about the EU and how it works as well as information about the Member States and your rights.

We will have lots of fun booklets for children with colouring and stickers providing information about countries such as flags and currency.

If you are visiting the Eisteddfod please come and visit our stall and check out the information we have.

I would like to stress that we are a politically neutral organisation simply there to provide information not propaganda. We will also not be providing any information on the upcoming referendum.



School International Day workshops

Throughout June and July we have been doing and will be continuing to do International Day's in both primary and secondary schools.

We go in for a full day and offer workshops to classes.

In some cases, usually in primary schools, each class has chosen a different country so we go in and talk to the class about that country, its culture and language and we take fun activities for the pupils to do.

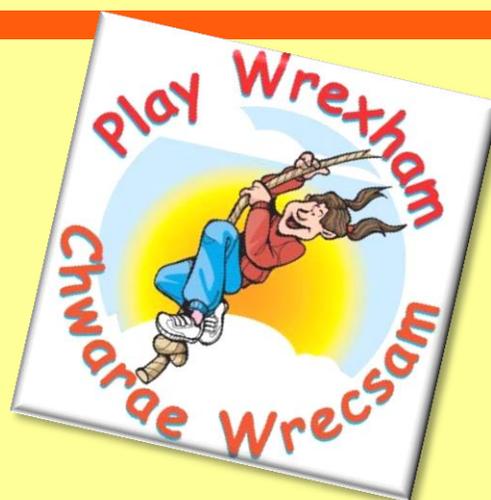
In other cases, mainly in secondary schools, we will go in and run workshops focusing on language choices at GCSE, this is usually French, German or Spanish or a combination. We will talk about the country in general as well as the culture and we will tie in the language throughout. We will again bring fun activities for the class to participate in.

PlayDay

Date: Wednesday 5th August 2015

Location: Queens Square, Wrexham

Time: 12pm-4pm



Playday is the UK wide annual celebration of Children's Right to Play that takes place every August on the first Wednesday of the month. Wrexham celebrates national Playday each year by holding a large scale, free and open access play event in the town centre on Queen's Square and Llwyn Isaf.

Over the years our Playday events have built up quite a reputation with 1000s of people visiting each year. The success of the event relies heavily on lots of different groups each contributing some form of opportunity for children's play, which collectively creates one big and very playful environment. The events offer something for everyone who enjoys playing including the chance to get wet and messy! For further information or to get involved please contact the WCBC Play Development Team.

WCBC Play Development Team

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Enjoy the Summer Holidays!

2015 - The European Year of Development



We introduced The European Year of Development in our previous Newsletter. We talked about how each month has a key theme. The themes for this month and next are detailed below:

June - Sustainable Green Growth, Decent Jobs and Businesses

The green economy has particular relevance for developing countries, as many are vulnerable to external shocks such as climate change, natural disasters or food and fuel crises. Sustainable green growth should at the same time alleviate poverty, protect the natural environment and ensure decent work with labour rights and standards, social protection and social dialogue all upheld.

Today, there are over 200 million people unemployed worldwide. Only about a quarter of the working-age population in developing countries is engaged in productive and decent employment; nearly 900 million workers are living in households with incomes below the poverty line. Businesses are job creators and lead innovation and change, they are key to ensuring decent work and forging responsible and sustainable development. At the end of the day, development is about making investment and economic activity work for everyone, while protecting our planet.

July - Children and Youth

When world leaders signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child 25 years ago, they promised to guarantee every child the right to life, to be educated and healthy, to be treated fairly and to be heard. But has the world kept its promises? As Nelson Mandela said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." Can today's children look forward to a brighter future? And what about the children of tomorrow?"

August - Humanitarian Aid

Natural disasters, wars, and conflicts can have devastating effects on civilians, depriving them from the basics of subsistence like food or electricity, sometimes overnight. Humanitarian aid ensures the very survival of the affected populations after a crisis hits by responding to basic needs such as food, shelter, clean water or physical protection. European humanitarian aid is unconditional. It is there for anyone who needs it, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age or political beliefs. It is about human dignity, not about politics.

EU development aid

15 things you may not know about EU development cooperation in 2015

1. EU aid focuses on the countries which need it most.
2. The EU is helping to improve the lives of millions.
3. EU aid is transparent and it is easy to find out where the money goes.
4. To prevent fraud and corruption, EU aid is regularly audited and controlled.
5. The EU and its Member States together are the most generous donors of official development aid in the world.
6. Developing countries have a strong say in how EU aid is spent, what will be done and where.
7. The EU relies on organisations with the right experience to carry out its development projects on the ground.
8. The EU involves civil society organisations when it plans its cooperation with partner countries.
9. About 25% of EU aid is given directly to governments so they can do their work, following priorities that they define themselves, in close dialogue with the EU.
10. The EU has 139 delegations and offices across the world, more than any EU member state. At the same time its external aid equals less than a tenth of its budget.
11. In many countries the EU and its Member States combine their development efforts to ensure that we work more hand in hand and don't do the same thing twice.
12. The EU works hard to ensure that its work in areas such as trade and finance, agriculture, security, climate change, or migration helps overcome poverty in developing countries.
13. EU humanitarian aid and development cooperation are different but work hand in hand.
14. The world has managed to reduce the share of extremely poor people by more than half since 1990.
15. Europeans believe that we have a responsibility to help people in poor countries, and many are ready to play their part in this.

For more details go to:

<https://europa.eu/eyd2015/en/content/eu-development-aid>



Opportunities for Schools

Educational Visits to Europe House in London

Free education sessions at Europe House that are specially designed to be interactive, politically neutral and suitable for 11-18 year olds at schools and colleges, including those studying for GCSE, A-Level and BTEC qualifications. They are completely free of charge.

Each session includes several engaging activities. These culminate in a European Parliament simulation where students take on the role of MEPs from different countries and political groups to debate a topical issue.

Whether you're teaching about Europe in Geography, History, Citizenship or Politics, a visit to the European Parliament information office in the UK will help support your work and enhance your students' learning. We will work with you to ensure that your visit is really valuable.

Your MEPs will be informed of your visit and encouraged to engage with your students. Let us know if there's a particular issue you would like to speak to them about.

Sessions are facilitated by trained staff from Involver, a social enterprise that helps young people to have a say in the places they go and the services they use. For more information go to:

http://www.europarl.org.uk/en/education/school_visits.html/Q&

Visit the Parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg

These visits are for children aged 14 and over.

When visiting **Brussels** groups will enter the Parliamentarium and find out about their MEPs and what they do as well as the history of the EU and how it works.

Groups will receive a tour of the Chamber where committee meetings are held and for school groups there are also role play games where students can put themselves in an MEP's shoes.



Strasbourg is the official seat of the European Parliament. Each month, Members gather here for four days to vote and debate in a series of meetings known as plenary sessions.

Whether rejecting, amending or adopting proposals, this week is a high-point in the EU's law-making process. We invite visitors to sit in on these sessions, and to find out more about this representative body in an informative talk lasting approximately one hour. There are also guided tours of the Chamber available.

Euroscola: The European Parliament invites schools, teachers and students to participate in the Euroscola programme - a chance for secondary school pupils to spend a day in Strasbourg in the shoes of an MEP!

Euroscola brings together 16-18 year old students from all 27 European Union Member States. From the benches of the European Parliament's chamber the students get the unique opportunity to experience EU decision-making in the form of a multilingual European Youth Parliament. Euroscola allows these students to get together, debate, take sides, negotiate, amend, vote and finally adopt resolutions on real European issues.

What is Europe Direct?

Europe Direct Wrexham is an information service about Europe and the European Union. We provide a vast amount of FREE literature for all ages on all kind of subjects from the environment, European Parliament, opportunities for young people in Europe, travelling in Europe and languages.

We also provide packs for teachers to aid them in delivering topics on Europe and the European Union as part of the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification and Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC).

We offer free material to create colourful wall displays about Europe such as maps, flag bunting and posters.

Aside from the publications we also deliver FREE workshops in schools on subjects such as history of the EU, what it does, how laws are made, the importance of learning modern foreign languages, business and trade and the environment.

Workshops consist of various activities which you can mix and match from such as presentations, quizzes, map games, design your MEP and European bag design to form a lesson.

As well as workshops we can assist in organising European weeks, European assemblies, fun days and MEP visits as part of curriculum days.

The aim of this newsletter is to keep you informed of the services that Europe Direct can offer YOU to help teach certain subjects.

Workshop Examples:

European Fairies (Ages 3 - 11, 1 hour session)

How well do you know Europe? (Ages 11+, 1 hour session)

'Europe and the European Union - what's that?' (Ages 11-18, 1 hour session)

Design a European Cotton Bag (Ages 7-14, 1 Hour session)

European Postcards (Ages 8-11, 1 hour session)

Design Your Own Politician (Ages 11-16, 30 minute session)

Design your own European Citizen (Ages 11-16, 30 minute session)

Design an EU flag (Ages 8-11, 30 minute session)

Erasmus + Strategic Partnerships for Schools (for teachers)

E-Twinning (for teachers)

European Parliament London FREE Visits

Parlamentarium - European Parliament's Visitor centre - Brussels

If you are interested in having Europe Direct Wrexham come and do presentations at your school, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below:

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Wrexham**

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