



Newsletter
Issue 5
October
2015

I hope everyone is settling back into another academic year. We are now on the (dare I say it!) countdown to Christmas, always a fun time. So look out for our next newsletter which will be our December Christmas edition.

School Year 2015/2016

This school year we have already booked to work with a number of schools across Wrexham to run workshops.

(Autumn Term)

We are currently at Darland School running workshops with Year 7 about the European Union, how it started, what it is, how it works and how it affects us. These will run until Christmas.

(Spring Term)

We will be at Darland School running workshops with Year 9 encouraging students to take a foreign language in their options and the benefits of doing so.

We will be at St Joseph's High School running workshops with Year 11 about the European Union.

Christmas Workshops:

We already have a large number of Christmas workshops booked in for November and December with a number of primary schools across the Wrexham area.

These will be about how Christmas is celebrated in different EU countries. Currently the countries we are running workshops about are: Spain, Germany, Poland, Romania, The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, and Greece. There will be a PowerPoint presentation, a story from that country, a craft activity and extra colouring. We ran these workshops last year in Wrexham Library and they were very popular and hugely successful. This year we are taking the workshops into schools. So far they are proving even more popular and hopefully they will be as successful. More information on these workshops will be in our Christmas newsletter.

Upcoming Events

European Christmas Tree Decoration Exchange

Each year we have invited primary schools in the area to participate in the Christmas Tree Decoration Exchange. This involves making decorations and sending them to other schools across Europe. Schools then also received decorations from other schools which can be displayed on a tree at the school. It also encourages other work around looking at how Christmas is celebrated in other countries, looking wider at culture in general, finding similarities and differences.

The exchange has always proved popular and this year was no exception as we have had more schools wanting to take part than we could accommodate. This year was no exception as most places were filled before the end of the summer term. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

The exchange should run again next year so if you haven't been able to get a place this year look out for an email in June / July about it. Emails are sent to the general schools email address however if you want to be notified directly this time, please send your details to us. Contact details are at the end of the newsletter. If you work with any other schools closely there is a possibility that you can link up with other schools to take part in the project.

In previous years the exchange was run by Europe Direct Llangollen however that centre closed part way through this years project. We recently have taken over the running of the project across the EU and hope to continue running it next year.

For any further details please get in touch.



2015 - The European Year for Development



We introduced The European Year for Development in our previous Newsletters. We talked about how each month has a key theme. The themes for this month and next are detailed below, September's theme is particularly relevant with all the discussions of migration in the news;

October – Food Security

Undernutrition kills more than 3 million children every year and leaves millions more mentally and physically scarred for life. Moreover, every day one person in eight goes hungry because they can't find or afford enough nutritious food.

Hunger and undernutrition are enemies of human development and can cause conflict. When people cannot create wealth, their countries' growth potential is stunted. For countries striving to climb the development ladder, this is a particularly harsh blow. It's clear, then, that we need to make feeding an ever-growing global population a key development priority.

November – Sustainable Development and Climate Action

Since the Millennium Development Goals were set in 2000, the world has made great progress in reducing poverty. But great challenges remain in all areas, and one – climate change – is among the gravest. If left unchecked, it threatens to undo development achievements of recent years and undermine future progress. It's a particular threat to developing countries, as their economies often depend on climate-sensitive natural resources. But we are all in this together.

The Sustainable Development Goals and the international climate agreement to be adopted in 2015 are expected to engage all countries in action to fight and adapt to climate change along with tackling other development challenges. The future of our planet depends on our actions now, and together we can find solutions.

For more details go to:
<https://europa.eu/eyd2015/en/content/eu-development-aid>

Integrated actions and humanitarian aid needed for the European Agenda on migration

The European Union is witnessing perhaps the largest scale of immigration wave ever, with some 153,000 migrants who have been detected at its external borders since the beginning of this year and arriving at its "gates". In their exhausting escape from civil war, despair, famine and misery using dangerous routes, every day they risk kidnapping, human trafficking, robbery, jail and even death.

Recent events happened in Southern Italy, Greece and at the border between Serbia and Hungary, with the building of barbed wire fence by the Hungarian government, are clear evidence of the necessity of humanitarian aid for these people, who should be provided with shelter, food, health care.

Besides the need to fight against the organised crime of the human trafficking and smuggling, ALDA* calls for immediate actions guaranteeing adequate humanitarian aid, psychological and counseling support, especially in the host communities along the EU external borderline, and strongly urges for coordinated actions by the government institutions, Red Cross and other civil society organizations in order to ensure migrants to have access to healthcare, medical and sanitation services in both transit and host countries.

Finally, we confirm our commitments with our co-operation programmes, which are effectively contributing to the European year for Development 2015, through actions aimed at supporting local authorities that can play a bigger role in helping migrants, who can be active partners in development and not a burden on society.

Read the [statement by ALDA](#) on this issue

(*ALDA - the European Association for Local Democracy is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level.)



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 Bacalaureate 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.

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 and how it works.' (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)

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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