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Planning and creating an Erasmus Arts Project

My blog visually describes the ongoing journey I am currently involved with, leading the planning and creation of the Erasmus Arts project. This project was started with pupils at Collingwood School and Media Arts College during the last half term and final pieces will be created during Arts week starting on the 28th June 2021. The project will be launched and delivered by Erasmus partnership schools in September 2021



Researching and deciding on an arts project

I was asked to plan and create an Art project that can be delivered in our Erasmus partnership schools from September 2021.

The vision is to collaborate in a joint art project, sharing teaching practice and resources. The pupils will also be able to see what each other have created using the same project/lesson plan and instructions.

A few art project ideas were mind mapped and thought of, making sure they would be suitable for delivery in 6 European schools in:

Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain.

The art project would be delivered in Collingwood during the last half term, with the final creation being made during our Arts week starting on Monday 28th June 2021

The project that was chosen was 'Celebrating the creative life of Eric Carle'. A series of lessons that incorporates the style and techniques used by the illustrator. The final piece that everyone creates would be a collaged butterfly symbolising and celebrating spreading our wings and positivity.



Planning and creating a project

The next stage was to create an arts project/lesson plan suitable for our European schools to follow and deliver.

Learning objectives were kept simple, but concentrated on skills and technique.

An artist research task and 3 art technique tasks were created, being inspired by the creative journey used by Eric Carle.

Task 1 involved creating brightly painted and textured pages similar to the technique and visual look of Eric Carle's.

Task 2 asks pupils to draw a butterfly outline showing and using different shapes and details.

Task 3 the pupils are asked to use their painted papers and butterfly design to create a collaged butterfly.

For each task a demonstration and examples will be used to help with language barriers that may be faced.



Filming demonstrations and voiceovers

To aid with the language barriers that could be faced a series of demonstrations were filmed to show how to complete each task.

Voiceovers were also recorded to accompany the slides for the project/lesson.

Demonstrations needed to be visual and tasks kept short and concise so they could be easily followed if a language barrier was present.

The art room was set up with 3 cameras and correct lighting. 2 cameras facing forward and a camera from above filming the demonstrations as a birds-eye view.

The media team in school will then place the slides, voiceovers and demonstration recordings in order to show how an art lesson would be taught at Collingwood.



Starting the project with pupils

Researching the artist and creating painted examples

During the last half term pupils at Collingwood began researching the artist Eric Carle and created artist research pages about his work, technique and creative life. This help provide them with visual ideas about his technique.

The pupils were then set the task to create 5 brightly coloured and textured papers that will then be cut up and collaged into a butterfly.

The main point of this task was to have fun, be creative, and experiment with mixing paints and playing with textures.



Getting ready to create our collaged butterflies

The pupils during arts week will now create their collaged butterflies using their brightly coloured handmade papers.

These will then be used as examples for the other schools. All of the children will then be able to share their creations with pupils from around Europe.

This project is to be continued into September 2021, where the success of the project can be evaluated and measured.