

Erasmus+ project: Intensive English Course and a CLIL course for Teachers at ULearn English School in Dublin 14-20 October 2018.

My name is Paola Pinna and I'm a teacher of mathematics and physics.

I recently took part in an Erasmus+ project that included an Intensive English Course and a CLIL course for Teachers at ULearn English School in Dublin. This is the reason why I attended an English course for one week 14-20 October 2018 in the morning and, after lunch, a course on CLIL.

I stayed in a house in a south suburb of Dublin with three other boys, an Italian girl in Erasmus, a Mexican boy and a Korean boy attending English courses. At dinner, we ate together, and we shared our impressions of the day. The house was a modern townhouse and one week before Halloween it was already decorated with ghosts and witches. It seems to me to be returned to my youth when I stayed for a summer period in England!



The house wasn't too far from the city center and from the school (about 7 Km) but the problem was the traffic! In the morning it took one hour by bus to arrive to school because of the cars lined up in a long row! I realized that traffic is a general problem in the world !

Activities included a guided walking tour of Dublin city center on Tuesday afternoon after lessons and a day trip on Saturday to the Giant's Causeway, a seismic geological formation of an unusual hexagonal form.

Even if one week is a too short period to practise a foreign language, however these lessons had been useful to improve my fluency in speaking and a training in listening



*Giant's causeway*

The school program was intense.

CLIL lessons had been interesting because in this period I'm attending a methodological CLIL course in Florence and I compared different point of view on the same aspects and different interpretations due to the different cultural context.

We had an Introduction to CLIL, looking at some of the main needs of students and teachers in the classroom and challenges which can arise teaching a CLIL syllabus.



*James Joyce*

We focused on vocabulary and communication in the CLIL classroom to promote communication in lessons. Reading, writing, listening and speaking skills will be looked at within the context of a CLIL lesson in conjunction with using scaffolding activities. So we looked at how materials can be adapted and exploited to be used in the classroom. Our final lesson was focused on how students are assessed (formal, informal and summative testing).



*Trinity College*

I found this week very pleasant and positively engaging. I think it is important for teachers to have the opportunity to compare with European colleagues as a source of ideas to improve their work and to do it with greater satisfaction and awareness.

I hope I'll stay in touch with other participants in order to organize some exchange activities with our classes.