

Meet our Greek Language Assistant

Katerina Charalampidou arrived from Thessalonica in Greece on November 20th and will work with us as a Comenius Language Assistant until June 15th. Here she answers some of your questions:

Tell us a bit about yourself? I'm 25 years old and I work as a teacher in Greece. I've lived in Thessalonica for 7 years and I've always wanted to work in England as a teacher.

What will you do at Cleeve School? I'll teach Greek and talk about Greek culture and life. During the year, students will also have the opportunity to learn some interesting facts about Greece in their lessons about Greek tourism, food, history and more.

What are your first impressions of Cleeve School? Is it very different from schools in Greece? I'm very excited with the way teachers at Cleeve School work. I especially like the projects students do and the school exchanges. Unfortunately, schools in Greece don't offer the same range of activities to students due to lack of funding. Moreover, there is very little practice in lessons like Music, Design Technology and Drama.

What do you like about England? I find the educational system very organised and innovative. I also like English people because they're very kind and helpful.

What do you miss about Greece? Apart from the sun, I miss the way Greeks spend their evenings and especially at weekends, when they stay out until late at night.



Ni men hao.

A group of 11 students with two teachers went on a 3 week trip to China. I was lucky to be one of them. We flew to Beijing on 14th July 2009 and spent just under 4 days there, we spent a further 2 days there at the end of the trip. We also visited Shanghai, where we spent 13 days. When we were in Shanghai we had 30 hours of Mandarin lessons, which sounds a lot but they were really helpful, especially for shopping which was great in China! The food in China was great with many new things I would never have dreamed of eating like octopus (I think!). I mainly stuck to the rice and vegetables which were delicious. During the trip to China we saw some famous sights which were amazing. In Beijing we visited the Great Wall of China, along with several thousand other tourists, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Birds Nest Olympic Stadium. In Shanghai one of the highlights was seeing the Shanghai circus which was incredible. I had never seen a circus like it before! I can't really put into words my opinion of the China trip but basically it was the best trip I have ever been on and it is honestly once in a lifetime!



Molly Chapman
Year 12

Foreign Languages Leaders

Year 12 students are busy preparing to teach Year 6 and Year 7 pupils some beginner Spanish lessons. They have been preparing their lessons under the guidance of an experienced language teacher and are making huge progress each week. "I really enjoy the challenge— teaching's a lot harder than it looks" said Richard Mashford, one of the Language Leaders.



Cleeve Welcomes French Work Experience Students

We were very pleased to host some students from Poitiers for a month's work experience. They are all business students and had work placements in various businesses in and around Cheltenham. They left on December 4th and gave a farewell party for all the business partners, host families and Year 12 students involved. "It has been hard but I have learnt a lot" said Aurore, one of the French students. Cleeve I.B. students will return to Poitiers for work experience in May.

Into Europe and Beyond!

KS5 Business Studies students are researching into setting up a business in a European Union country as part of their course. They have to consider the economic, social and cultural background of several European countries before deciding where they would set up their company. "This is an interesting part of the course as it allows students to look beyond their immediate surroundings and to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of several European economies. It is excellent preparation for the future and broadens students' horizons" said Matt Prior, Head of Business Studies.

Latest news

مرحبا

Year 9 English pupils have been improving their beginner's Arabic thanks to our link with GCHQ. A specialised Arabic teacher has been teaching our pupils to help them communicate with our two partner schools in Bahrain. This is the second year of the project and this year pupils have already exchanged work on people whom they most admire and are currently engaged on a project comparing our carbon footprint with that of our Bahrain and Irish partners. Angela Butler, their English teacher, has been leading the project and is thrilled with the work produced and with the extra dimension that the link with Ireland and Bahrain allows. "It has been a great success so far and the pupils have enjoyed receiving letters and work from their new Bahrain and Irish friends." she said.



Visiting European Teachers

18 English teachers from 12 different EU countries including Turkey, Croatia, Rumania, Austria, Germany, Spain and Italy spent the day at school on the 10th September. They came to see how English schools are run and were amazed by the politeness and good behaviour of our students. They visited many lessons and said that our school was very well equipped and very modern and clean compared to where they teach. They also noticed how much was going on outside lessons, something which is unusual in their education systems. They would like to pass on their thanks to the pupils and staff for making them feel so welcome!

Parlez-vous Français?

The language evening classes in French and Spanish for the local community have been a huge success with over 50 people learning Spanish and 35 taking French. "The response has been tremendous. We never expected so many people but are very pleased that we can provide this service to our local community" said Mark Durn, Extended Services Co-ordinator. We hope to offer evening classes in Russian, Chinese and Greek in the near future so watch this space...

The 26th September was European Day of Languages, an annual event to remind us of all the different languages and cultures in Europe. To celebrate the day several events took place in school. Three European competitions were organised – a language quiz for Year 7, a flag quiz for Year 8 and a football quiz for Year 9. The catering staff in EAT played their part too, producing a delicious Spanish menu and dressing up in typical Spanish style for the day.



Spanish music played in the background as the hungry diners tucked into their paella and tortilla! ¡Qué rico! Many teachers greeted their classes on Friday in a wide variety of languages ranging from Slovakian to Swedish and some talked about famous European figures in their subject. Days like this remind us that there are 830.4 million people living in Europe, speaking 230 languages and contrary to popular belief, not everyone speaks English!



Rioja Reunion

During the half term, 22 Year 11 students went to Logroño, Spain, to take part in a week exchange. Before we went I think I can safely say



that we were all very excited, if not a bit nervous. On arriving at the Spanish school, IES Cosmo Garcia, that nervousness had tripled into heart-pounding fear! Getting off the coach to meet the Spanish families for the first time was petrifying - luckily, they were all really friendly and welcoming. After being introduced to our partners, we wearily dragged our suitcases back to their apartments which were dotted around the town centre. As nearly all of us lived near to each



other we were able to meet up regularly with our friends and their partners throughout the week. During the exchange we did lots of fun activities such as going to the main tapas region on Saturday evening to try out all the local dishes. We also had a tour of a local wine and olive oil factory where we all bought lots of olive oil for our families at home. Visiting monasteries, cathedrals and art galleries in an attempt to make us soak up some culture wasn't quite as much fun though!

We even had to go to an art gallery in a Screw Museum on our last night in Spain! Overall the experience was brilliant and I for one had an amazing time. I loved meeting all the Spanish people and can't wait for them to come over here next year!

By Amber Davie Year 11

