

Case Study: Our ERASMUS Experience

Northallerton School and Partner Primary Schools

Original objective: For a group of six Year 10 students (14 and 15-year-olds) to design and deliver a lesson on 'The benefits and dangers of social media' to the Year 6 (10 and 11-year-olds) cohort in one of our local partner primary schools (42 students).

Background: Northallerton School and Sixth Form College is a secondary comprehensive school in rural North Yorkshire with just over 1000 students aged 11 to 18. The school is situated in the market town of Northallerton. We have 16 partner primary schools, six are situated in the town and feed in between 20 and 40 students each year to us; the rest are in villages with much smaller numbers of students.

In April 2022 we decided to incorporate this activity into our Transition Programme for Year 6 students who will move from primary school to our school in September. This gave the Year 6 students another opportunity to interact with older students at their new school. We chose a primary school we already work closely with and chose Year 10 students who had gone to that primary school with the expectation they were both familiar to the younger students and could relate well to them.

Timing: We began the project in late May 2022. The Year 10 students spent approximately 6.5 hours preparing the lesson, of which 3.5 hours were with me and three hours were spent working independently. We then spent a morning at the primary school preparing, presenting and receiving feedback.

Timeline of Preparation:

Time allowed	Activity	Notes
30 mins	<u>Initial meeting</u> with the Year 10 students to explain the project	Aim: to deliver a 30 minute lesson to Year 6 on 'The Benefits and Dangers of Social Media'
1 hour	<u>First planning meeting</u> The Year 10 students were asked these questions: Name all the social media platforms you know? What is the age limit? What are the benefits and dangers of social media? How do you want to conduct this lesson?	The students came up with these benefits and dangers - Prepare the scenarios: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Peer pressure2. Bullying3. Grooming4. Strangers5. Privacy/not giving out personal info6. Connecting with people They decided that they wanted to conduct the lesson face-to-face, that they would prefer to present to a smallish group (we decided to split the

		Year 6 cohort in half and repeat the lesson rather than presenting to all 42 at once) and that they would like to incorporate filmed scenarios into the lesson.
3 hours	Students working (mostly independently but with regular check-ins) on the scripts for the scenarios and then the filming.	One student is very interested in editing and took on this role.
2 hours	Rehearsal of the lesson	The Year 10 students felt quite nervous about presenting their lesson so it was important to take time to rehearse properly and build their confidence. We didn't want the finished product to feel too 'scripted', instead we wanted to be able to respond to the questions and feedback that the Year 6 students had.
3 hours	Visit to the primary school to deliver the lesson.	Due to various technical problems, the final presentation only incorporated one of the films; the other scenarios were acted out by the students live. In the event, this was a good thing as showing the film at the primary school was only possible on a laptop screen.

Feedback:

From the Year 6s:

The Year 6 students thoroughly enjoyed the lesson. They said that they learned more about both the benefits and dangers of social media and appreciated getting to know the older students.

From the Year 10s:

The Year 10 students were asked the following questions their answers are in *italics*):

Did you enjoy this project? Was it all enjoyable or were there bits that you enjoyed more, for example the preparation or the delivery?

I did enjoy this project, I thought it was a great opportunity for me as well as the school. The most enjoyable part was definitely the delivery although preparing the short films was enjoyable too.

I enjoyed the project as a whole but bits like the delivery were more challenging due to the circumstances of the place we were presenting yet enjoyable to overcome them.

Yes, I did enjoy the project. However, managing to put it together in time was a bit stressful.

What were the difficulties?

The difficulty of this project was simply finding the time to work on it when we were all free.

Working as a group whilst people had covid.

Time management and working with other people (and their time management).

Would you do it again?

All the students said yes.

If you did it again, what would you do differently?

I would start preparing earlier and put more time into rehearsals.

I would increase the amount of interactivity in the presentation.

From the teacher:

It was refreshing to work with a small group of students and to be able to work in such a collaborative way. The students had free rein to be creative, my role was to facilitate which included time management and teaching specific skills such as public speaking.

Current objective: Following the successful completion of our original objective, we decided to incorporate this activity into our Transition Programme and offer it to all of our partner primary schools. Our reasons for doing this were:

- the subject matter: discussions with our partner primary heads highlighted the opinion that the younger students would find it easier to ask the older students questions and that their knowledge was likely to be more up-to-date;
- the older students themselves: a big part of successful transition from primary to secondary school is enabling the students to feel like they belong. Relationships with older students help to create this sense of belonging (Dave Harris, *Independent Thinking on Transition: Fostering better collaboration between primary and secondary schools*).

Ongoing work: The 'Benefits and Dangers of Social Media' Workshop is now an established part of our Transition Programme - a calendar of events that we offer to our partner primary schools. We try to make sure that our offer is varied - some events take place in Northallerton

School, others in the primary schools. A wide range of subjects are covered and several different people are involved in the delivery. At the moment, the workshops are being delivered by a group of four sixth form (Year 12) students who are a year older than the original group of six Year 10 students. This is because sixth form students do not have a full timetable of lessons whereas our younger students do, this means that our older students have time during the school day to go out to partner primary schools. Quite rightly, these students wanted to put their own stamp on the workshop and have replaced the scripted scenarios with their own. They have also added follow-ups to each of the scenarios where they ask the younger students their opinions about what was said and done and how they might behave differently.

The presentation they use is here - [Copy of Erasmus Project](#).

Using different students to present the workshop has illustrated that this is a flexible, adaptable and transferable piece of work that we can continue to use. My hope is that next year we will be able to use some of the original creators of the work again, they may want to pick up the film idea and incorporate that - we shall see!

The final word... goes to a Year 6 student who the Year 12 students interviewed after their first delivery of the workshop this academic year. They asked the following questions, responses are in *italics* -

What do you think the point of the workshop was?

To help us understand the benefits and dangers of social media.

Was it helpful?

Yes, it was full of information, I feel like it covered everything.

Do you know how to keep yourself safe online?

Yes, what you said about how to change the settings on your phone to private and how to recognise when something isn't right was helpful. I have a phone but I only use it to contact my parents and close friends. I don't know if I want to use social media.

Is there anything you would like to ask us?

I am looking forward to starting secondary school but I do have some worries - I'm worried about bullying, about making friends and about leaving here.

The Year 12 students explained to the Year 6 student about the Transition Programme, including our Induction Week, our Anti-Bullying Policy and our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and their experiences of school life.

Thank you: We have thoroughly enjoyed being part of this ERASMUS project and are excited that it leaves a rich legacy.