

Erasmus+ project funded by The British Council. October 2018

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to tell you about a wonderful opportunity for your child to participate in an exciting new European programme.

After applying in March 2018, Ballard recently received the great news that we had been successful in securing a grant from The British Council. Our project title is: Better Together- .... And the project will run until 2020.

The Erasmus+ project is a British Council funded initiative which was established to broaden the horizons and experiences of pupils and teachers within the European Union. The focus is primarily cultural in that it seeks to promote diversity and to celebrate differences in cultures and communities.

This Erasmus+ programme will involve a wide variety of activities touching upon most subject areas represented within school life. It is not simply a language programme and as such, there is no requirement for your child to be able to speak another language- unless of course they would like the chance to try!

This project will be hugely rewarding for all those who participate! Although it is important to state that it will require commitment on the part of your child- to complete research and case studies; to forge friendships with students in our partner schools and to get involved in foreign exchange trips and in reciprocal hosting events.

The British Council has conducted extensive surveys regarding the careers and life chances of Erasmus participants and the findings really do speak for themselves! 75% of students who had been involved in an Erasmus cultural programme were in high level employment some 5 years after leaving full time education; surveys asked employers for their feedback and nearly all were unanimous in saying that a CV or personal statement that cited a student's involvement with Erasmus or similar philanthropic programme was more likely to be called to interview- as it showed a rounded and three-dimensional person.

I have enclosed for your perusal:

- \* a flyer with more information about The British Council as an organisation and Erasmus+ as a project- please do look at the websites listed for further details.
- \*an overview of our project and essential information regarding key dates and our partner school.
- \*a reply slip for you and your child to complete and return to school by .....

I hope you share in my belief that we are very much international in our outlook as a school, and I do hope that you feel as enthused as I do about this superb opportunity for your children here at Ballard School.

With best wishes,

Nichole Hewison

International School Award Co-ordinator; Erasmus+ leader.