

Summary

Openness

In our world of fast pace change one has to keep up with the latest trends and developments in the field: this is the key to success. In the field of education and teaching this is certainly true, one has to open their eyes and take in what is new: innovations in methods and technology and changes in society and culture. This is the reason why we gave our project the title: *Open School*.

In an open school teachers have to get to grips with new methods, new ways of looking at things to be able to take challenges in their stride, overcome obstacles, be creative and proactive.

Continuity and new tasks

We are keen to continue adopting new methods in teaching foreign languages, namely English and German, something we started in the past few years along with the growing use of ICT tools. This year we would like to make a step ahead and spread the use of ICT tools, involve more and more teachers. On the basis of equal opportunities we are planning to participate in a training which helps us integrate pupils with social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties.

Our school is already part of a growing (ever expanding) network of international relations, which we are planning to maintain and develop further. For this reason we need to invest in the foreign language competence of our teachers of other (non-language) subjects and members of the school leadership. In the 2019 project eight teachers take part, the increase in number is the result of successful dissemination.

Language teachers

Two of our German teachers from the grammar school, intent on refreshing or almost revolutionizing teaching methods chose different approaches, one will focus on creativity and motivation (she is studying to become an English teacher as well) while the other the use of ICT tools.

Two teachers from the elementary school and the Children's House Program chose the use of technology (tablets, apps, social media), one English teacher, the coordinator of the grammar school section, chose contemporary English. All of these choices reflect the desire/wish to make pupils and students interested, to use tools that are attractive and with which they are familiar, and to teach them modern, up-to-date language including business and slang usages as well. All knowledge learnt in the courses will be pooled in our team sessions.

Every year we have more and more pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties which poses challenges to all teachers. Our project leader, also the coordinator of the first four classes of the elementary school chose 'Teaching Difficult Children' so she can help and advise other teachers.

In the pipeline

After the training courses we are going to disseminate the acquired knowledge/ know-how at various forums: workshops for teachers, demonstrations, team discussions, and short lectures.

Lore about the education of children with emotional and behavioural difficulties should be shared with the whole teaching staff mainly in the form of lectures and also individual counselling. The uses of ICT tools will be demonstrated first in team meetings, later in actual classes. Creativity and motivation will be measured out when need arises. Contemporary English will be the subject matter of several workshops.

International relations

The language competence of our teaching staff is essential. Progress in this field will have tangible benefits when organizing future events with international partners, arranging exchanges, dealing with correspondence, listening to lectures or reading literature.

Our vocation

We believe that our 2019 project will be another milestone in the life of our school. With an up-to-date teaching staff, motivated to innovate and develop, who are willing and able to cooperate with international partners, we are convinced the project will have a lasting effect. With this attitude, with creative methods and new tools we intend to educate the new generation: to help them become successful individuals in the 21st century.