

Creative Curriculum Project 2017-19

Feedback and Evaluation Form – End of Theme

Q1 – How many teachers/non-teaching staff were involved in the project? How many pupils were affected by the project? Were other people (e.g. parents, external organisations etc.) involved in the project?

6 classes worked on the topic "Flight" (approx. 80 pupils, approx. 20 teachers, approx. 10 -15 non teaching staff). This corresponds to about 2/3 of the student body and half of the college. 11 teachers were actively involved in the planning of the school's Erasmus group.

As part of the theme classes visited:

The Butterfly House Ahrhütte,
the falconer Ari in Frechen,
the Freiluga Cologne (incl. beekeeper)
and the Bergneustadt airfield.

One class took part in the paper flying competition of the German Gliding Association.

Q2 – How did you plan the project theme? How did you work collaboratively?

Due to the tight time schedule before the summer holidays, there was no planning for this topic in the large group. The creative planning event already referred to the continuation of the work after the end of the project (see Q 5).

The planning of this topic took place in the classroom teams of 3 to 5 teachers. The lack of group planning meant that classes working on the same topics (butterflies, paper planes, birds of prey) did not know about each other, so that no exchange took place. One planning meeting per topic in the group is absolutely necessary for this in the future.

One class invited another class to present the results of their work and to dive back into the topic together. This event was experienced by students and teachers as very positive.

Overall, a "creative routine" in the positive sense has emerged. It is much easier for colleagues to immerse themselves in creative processes with their classroom team and to come up with innovative, interdisciplinary teaching ideas. The implementation of the project work proved to be problematic if not all members of the classroom team wanted to participate in the project.

Q3 – How do you feel about the project now? Did you get more energy and motivation? Was it a heavier workload? (If yes, why? Are there any changes possible for the next theme?)

All participants experienced the work in the project as enriching. The colleagues formulated that for this work one "gets something back from the pupils", that one has experienced relaxed, beautiful times with the pupils and that the pupils identify themselves also lastingly with the worked on topics and come back again and again to the learned at later points in time, if they meet this in other contexts. Learning at extracurricular venues was an absolute highlight for many pupils, which they worked towards and looked forward to. The colleagues also mentioned as particularly helpful the fact that within the framework of the project it was possible to purchase beautiful teaching materials that motivated pupils and teachers alike. The amount of work involved was estimated to be roughly the same as for other teaching preparations (especially within the framework of the weekly theme).

Q4 – What did you do well during this project theme? What will you do differently next time?

We have succeeded in visiting many extracurricular places of learning, as we had planned. The topic was implemented innovatively in the individual classes, with many action-oriented approaches and with extremely different focal points. Materials, files and documents were collected and are now available to the whole College.

Next time, the planning meeting should definitely take place in the group again, so that there is a better exchange between the classroom teams. The cooperation of several classes is still expandable. Some colleagues have set themselves the goal of making a renewed effort to involve the other members of the classroom team.

Q5 – Any other comments?

The implementation of the winter-tested creation of material boxes was continued, as this means that the whole school can benefit from the project with a small additional expenditure.

Parallel to the topic “Flight” the school worked on the continuation of the work beyond the end of the project. It was decided that in September for the first time a common project week of the whole school should take place (took place from 16. to 20. 9. 2019). In preparation for this project week, a creative meeting with the entire college took place (3. 06. 2019), during which the colleagues agreed to try out a completely new approach to a topic (see blog post). The response to this meeting was very positive:

Creative working on 3rd of June 2019

	<u>yes</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>between yes and no</u>
I had a good time	34	2	1
I managed to let go of everyday life and get involved in the creative process.	26	9	2
I have come to terms with the open nature of the task.	33	2	2
I have found access to the topic.	31	4	2
I experience such an approach as enriching for the collegial togetherness.	35	2	0
I can imagine that such an approach can influence my planning and teaching.	20	13	1 3x <u>no</u> <u>answer</u>
That was a waste of time.	4	33	0
<p>Wishes / criticism / suggestions for improvement / comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - less musical presentation more on the theme remain - more concrete planning ideas for the project week - Thank you very much. It was exciting, entertaining and funny! - <u>more</u> of them! - The teamwork still has to be done “sometime”. - In order to simplify the transition to the planning work, it would then be necessary to refer back to the results. Results are left hanging and use for further planning - A great way to find ideas. - Beautiful! (too long) - Great! More of them - larger groups - more concrete for the project week I would have preferred - However, today we have not crystallized any concrete ideas for the project week in our group. That means: super for the team process, for the planning rather not so. (I think other groups were also planned.) Time difficult, because actually there would have been a lot to do for the musical. That was a little inhibiting, because you have to put the work later on. 			

Following this creative meeting, the planning of the project week took place within the classroom teams or with several classroom teams of classes that wanted to work together.