



Education and Culture  
Lifelong learning programme  
COMENIUS



# SCOTTISH MOBILITY SEPTEMBER 2012

## **Monday 10th September**

Both Polish and Spanish visitors arrive in Scotland mid to late afternoon. The students were taken to their host families to rest and change after traveling before returning to the school for a social evening planned to allow the students to re-establish relations from the Polish mobility in May and to encourage communication between the Spanish and Scottish students meeting for the first time. Given that the project included music and dance, our evening included a mixture of modern and traditional music and dance, the traditional being an introduction to dance which was incorporated into both the school based programme and the social programme later in the week.

## **Tuesday 11th September**

The day began with a Scottish presentation to the whole group, beginning with a dance display from some of the s2/3 dance class, and a Scottish audio visual presentation, relating specifically to aspects of the project, Culture and Celebrations.

The day was based in the school exposing our Polish and Spanish partners to the educational experiences specifically relating to the project aims, so the timetable included opportunities to visit and take part in activities in the Physical Education, Music, Home Economics and RME departments with the young people and staff having hands on experiences in all. Given that we are a secondary school with specialist departments and a new school too, it proved to be an extremely rewarding experience for all. Having the ability too to produce some of the material and content for our project outcomes made it all the more beneficial. The students returned to their host families briefly before meeting up again at the school for a trip into the city centre for the first of our cultural experiences. A group meal proved for many to be a highlight of the mobility, before heading through many of the historical Edinburgh streets before taking advantage of one of the most celebrated tourist attractions, Mary King's Close.

This was a first for many of the Scottish students as well as being an ideal forum to share with our visitors the history of our capital. History and culture brought to life.

### **Wednesday 12th September**

A day sightseeing in the capital was enriched by having glorious weather. The students met at the school, and with packed lunches provided by the catering staff the group took local transport into the heart of the city. First stop, an open topped bus journey complete with audio guides around the major streets and attractions of the city's old town. Again a first for some of the Scottish students, further proof of the great value of these opportunities to both local and foreign students alike. Once the route was completed we headed to Edinburgh Castle and several hours of self exploration of the many castle displays and exhibitions. This too afforded our visitors excellent opportunity to view the city and provided many spectacular photo opportunities for the project blog, website as well as for personal memories.

After stopping for lunch the group walked the length of the Royal Mile which allowed opportunity for the visitors to make souvenir purchases as well as taking in the majesty of the architecture and history of this main historical thoroughfare. We then left the Royal Mile and ascended Carlton Hill for yet another opportunity to view the Scottish capital and to point out key buildings and landmarks.

We returned again to the school community where it was the host families responsibility to provide the evening entertainment. Many families got together for this, probably as it helped with language barriers to have more than one young person from either Poland or Spain together. Activities varied from visiting family members, going to the cinema, ten pin bowling, out for meals and generally chilling akin to a normal week night for Scottish school children.

### **Thursday 13th September**

The day was broken into three parts. The morning was spent in school to facilitate all young people to experience the full range of the specially designed departmental programme, and also incorporated some mainstream classroom experience with the students from Spain and Poland joining their host student in their classes.

After an early lunch, another trip into the city centre, this time to visit the National Museum. The young people spent a few hours here before a walk through other parts of the Old Town, and then a return to their host families.

The evening was a specially arranged 'Scottish Night' in school, catered for and facilitated by senior pupils and staff. The evening comprised a mixture of a Burns

Supper and a St Andrew's day celebration with Scottish food, music and dance. A live pipe band along with Scottish highland dancers proved to be an enormous success, as was the opportunity for all the staff and students to take part in our own mini ceilidh. The finale of the evening was a mini film, shown to staff, students and the families, summarising the weeks events.

### **Friday 14th September**

Spanish staff and students had an early rise to catch their homeward bound plane, whilst the Polish staff and students spent the morning in school visiting classes and departments with their hosts.