

EUROSCOLA 2012

A SCOTTISH ROTARY PROJECT

Introduction

Rotary clubs throughout Scotland are putting together an exciting opportunity for Sixth Year pupils. The project is based round the Euroscola day at the European Parliament.

The Euroscola day is hosted 10 times a year by the European Parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg. Around 500 young people from across the EU take part in a day of presentations, questions, discussions and voting on issues relevant to them. The day is multi-lingual with the expectation that all participants can communicate in French and English. The day is led by officials of the Parliament and is structured to ensure all young people participate to the full. It is a prestigious event with the young people being treated very much as MEPs: sitting in the main debating chamber; using electronic voting etc.

The Project

26 young people in their Sixth Year at school will be selected to represent Scotland at the February 2012 Euroscola event in Strasbourg. They will have studied Higher French and will have been selected to represent a local Rotary club before moving on to national selection.

We cannot give detailed information at present nor can the actual programme for the visit be arranged at this stage. It would be useful to refer schools and potential participants to our website

<http://www.euroscolaonline.com/> , where there is a record of a previous visit.

The main focus of the project is the Euroscola debate and all other activities will reinforce and complement the aims of the project. We ensure that the young people have opportunities to use their French in Strasbourg through visits to school/institutions/tourist activities and via market research questionnaires.

These are to encourage the pupils taking part to develop their French language skills, to help develop their European awareness and to encourage them to build on their self-confidence and presentation skills.

The programme will be based on a 5/6 day visit, spending 4 nights in Strasbourg.

Selection

Every Rotary club in Scotland can nominate pupils to take part in the project. The selection of pupils will be based on a number of criteria.

First of all only Sixth year pupils who have studied French to Higher level are eligible to take part.

Applications have to be approved by your head teacher who will also make a recommendation. Your application consists of a CV and a short essay of around 500 words on a European theme that interests you.

You will then be interviewed by your local Rotary club. Most clubs will have more than one person applying to take part so the first stage is to be selected by your local club. The final selection will be by the organising team. They will examine closely the CVs and essays; and assess the recommendations of your headteacher and the local Rotary club. You will know whether you have been successful or not by the end of November or shortly after that.

We expect the selection process to be very competitive. Apart from the basic criterion of having sat Higher French we will be looking for intelligent, outgoing and confident young people who have an interest in politics and who will take part fully in the Euroscola day and the other parts of the programme, representing their school and Scotland as a whole. Since you will not have the opportunity to meet the others in the group beforehand, you should also be able to make friends quickly.

Increasingly we find that successful participants are studying AH French or the languages bac.

The visit will involve a maximum of 5 days absence from school in the spring term. Participants will need to ensure all their school responsibilities in terms of course work deadlines etc are dealt with; they will also need the permission of their head teacher in order to take part.

Draft Programme

The proposed programme will be similar to the following.

		by plane
Tuesday		depart morning
		arrive late afternoon
		first preparation session
Wednesday	am	preparation
		culture visit
	pm	street questionnaire
Thursday	am	Challenge activity
	pm	feedback
		preparation
Friday		Euroscola debate
	evening	social event
Saturday		Depart
		arrive airport in evening

Accommodation

Accommodation will be mainly in 4-bedded rooms in the CIARUS hostel in Strasbourg, or other recommended accommodation. The hostel is of high quality and is regularly used by youth groups visiting the Parliament

Costs

The project will attract support from the European Parliament and your sponsoring Rotary club will cover all the costs of taking part. All meals except lunches are included. You will also want to bring your own pocket money.

Insurance etc

All participants will be fully insured. All arrangements for the visit will conform to the Scottish Executive, Education Department guidelines on school visits. The group will be led by an experienced teacher and visit organiser. Teachers from some of the nominating schools will also accompany the group. Full details on insurance and travel etc will be sent out to the selected pupils and at that stage your parents will be contacted by phone so that any questions they have can be answered.

Communication

After selection the visit organiser contacts all parties involved. Two mailings, one of basic information and the second dealing with preparation are sent to the pupil directly. In addition after the first mailing all pupils and their parents are contacted directly to deal with any questions parents might have. This call replaces the traditional Parents' Evening for a school trip.

Copies of the mailing are sent to the Headteacher, the Rotary club contact and the District contact. In addition, after the visit a short report is sent to your Headteacher and to the sponsoring club.

Follow up

Participants will be asked to make a presentation at their nominating club. They will then be presented with their Certificate of Participation. Each pupil will be given a power-point template including some photographs to allow them to deliver a professional presentation which is also very personal. Your school might be able to help you with this and we will also give some help during the visit.

Project Timescale

By end October	Local Rotary clubs select their nominees
By end November	Final selection by organising team Parents, pupils and Head teachers informed
December	Telephone contact with parents
Spring 2012	Project takes place
Post project	Presentation at local Rotary club

Next step

If you are interested in taking part you should discuss the project with your parents and teachers. The deadline for applications will be set by your local Rotary club. Remember that you must have your head teacher's approval and that your application will be sent to your local Rotary club by him/her. Your headteacher's recommendation will be taken into account for the selection.