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ISTITUTO ERNESTO
STATALE
SUPERIORE BALDUCCI

Erasmus+ Project KA121-SCH - Be Happy, Be Bright, Be You” Mobility to Chios - Greece from 7th to 14th September 2024

I.S.S. ERNESTO BALDUCCI
PONTASSIEVE

1ST GENERAL SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL OF CHIOS



The Erasmus group

From 14th to 21st September 2024 the mobility related to the Erasmus project “Be happy, be bright, be you” took place in Chios, Greece. During this period 22 Italian students from Istituto Balducci, accompanied by two teachers, flew to the island to meet and live with a group of Greek students from the first General Senior High School, who hosted them.

After a long and tiring journey we were welcomed by the Greek students at the airport; they picked us up and took us to our new home. It didn't take long for all of us to form a close-knit group, we made lots of friends in the first few days.

The Greek students and their teachers showed us some villages, such as Chios and Pyrgi, and some other wonderful historical places and landscapes.

We found out that Italians and Greeks have a lot in common, so it was quite easy to get along with the students. They're really open-minded and welcoming people who love to talk and challenge themselves; they're also really confident when speaking another language, so communication was very efficient and we understood each other well since the first day.

We also improved our speaking, collaborative and social skills by doing a lot of activities and participating in some projects. The topics we worked on were linked to the theme "Feeling good at school": we had the opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas with the analysis of a questionnaire and some workshops.

On the first day, when the students welcomed us to their school, they even showed us some of their traditional dances, followed by a nice buffet of traditional food made by the families.

Even though there isn't much variety in traditional Greek dishes, the food is definitely "Italian-approved": souvlaki, feta and gyros are always at the top, and a special mention goes to tzatziki and troufakia (traditional sweets).

Our hosts and their teachers also showed us the Mastiha tree, from which a resin rich in nutrients and medicinal properties is extracted. The resin is used both in cooking and in health and cosmetic products. This tree is one of the main sources of income on the island and since it only grows in the southern part of Chios, it's considered a special resource, it even has its own museum! Another famous museum is the Citrus Museum; citrus fruits were and are really important for the economy of Chios.

The history of the island was influenced by the Genoese dominion, which left traces in the native dialect still spoken today. Another important historical event was the Massacre of Chios in 1822 by the Ottoman Empire.

However, the real "treasure" of the trip was being able to discover new cultures and different lifestyles. The love and friendship that characterized our trip managed to create a special bond between us all, which made us reconsider our points of view and habits. We had such an incredible time and lots of fun, we learned new things, met new friends, got to know some aspects of Greek culture and traditions.

Intercultural exchanges are one of the most important experiences students like us can have and we think the EU should continue to support and finance projects like this.

We are really looking forward to hosting our Greek friends in Italy and we can't wait to meet them again!

Bartolozzi Gaia, Guasti Jacopo - 4BL