



May 7, 2018

Important Dates:

May 8: Open House

May 17: UK poet Anthony Anaxagorou will give workshops and a performance

May 23: Spirit Day: Rock and Roll theme

End of May: Day Trip to Cinque Terre

May 31: Open House

31 May - 3 June: Trip to Brussels, Bruges and Ghent

June 13: Spirit Day: Superhero theme

June 16: Open House

June 20: Prom

June 26 and 27: Final Exams

June 28: Graduation

[Visit Our Website!](#)

From the Head of School: Experiential Learning & 100% Re-enrolment.

One of the buzzwords of 21st century learning is "experiential" learning. While it can mean different things to different people, we define it two ways at Blyth Academy Florence: 1) getting students out of the classroom to learn from first-hand observations and experience; and 2) when in the classroom, providing plenty of hands-on experiences. Below, you can see three examples of our students learning experientially.



Grade 11 Biology students participating in a dissection in our science lab.



Our full school Term 3 day trip to Rome included a guided tour of the Colosseum. Here, our guide is explaining the social status that determined what section of the Colosseum people were seated in.



At the left are some of our residence students doing a guided tour of the Uffizi on a Saturday. There is always something interesting, educational, and fun to do in Florence and we offer those opportunities to our students.

I am pleased to report that we have had 100% re-enrolment of our current students for 2018/19 (this, of course, excludes graduating students and anyone moving from Italy). Thank you to all our students and parents who put their trust in us in our first year and who have been so supportive in recommending us to your friends. As a result, we are currently on track to more than double our current enrolment in September 2018.

If you have any feedback about our newsletter, please drop me a line at gary.omeara@blythacademyflorence.com. For parents who do not speak English, I encourage you to ask your son or daughter to read and translate this email for you.



Démonique learning technique

Art Media AVI3M Ontario Diploma Course

by Ms. Hotko

Students started the watercolour unit off by building their skill sets and acquiring knowledge of the medium. Students demonstrated the technique of mixing colour using Winsor and Newton watercolour on watercolour paper.

Once students had developed their understanding of the watercolour techniques, they went on to create a still life in watercolour.

"Color is the keyboard, the eyes are the harmonies, the soul is the piano with many strings. The artist is the hand that plays, touching one key or another, to cause vibrations in the soul."

Wassily Kandinsky



Giovanni's painting

Student Spotlight: Martina B.

Grade 10

Interview by Alessio D., Grade 9

Where are you from?

Italy

Why did you decide to come to Blyth Academy Florence?

My old school wasn't right for me and I knew my cousin, Carolina, was coming to Blyth Academy Florence so I came as well. I also wanted to learn English and wanted an international school experience.

What are you going to do next year?

I'm going to England to a college there. I knew about it before I started here, and I came here to experience an international school.

What are your favourite subjects?

Business and Art.

How do you like Blyth Academy Florence?

It's better than my old school; you can be yourself and everybody is nice.



Farewell to our Canadian Term 3 Students

Seemingly out of nowhere, it was the end of Term 3 and time to say goodbye



to some of our Canadian students: Isabel, Domonique, and Spencer. We all joined them to enjoy the view over Florence from



Piazzale Michelangelo with pizza. The three students received beautiful small original watercolours of the iconic view of Florence from the Piazzale and then had a chance to

sample artisanal gelato from the Gelato Festival that had just opened on the Piazzale.



Blyth Academy Florence University Fair

by Ms. Meadows

The school hosted its first University Fair on the 28th February 2018. We were lucky to have one of the representatives - Domonic Grego, from Goldsmiths University of London, contact us and offer a mini fair for

our students. With great excitement, the fair was organized involving the following 5 universities: the University of Roehampton, the University of London-SOAS, the University of East Anglia, and the University of Essex. This was a great way to initiate the thinking process of students with regards to considering and starting to map their future pathways. Due to snow storms in England, some of the University representatives were grounded in London and could not get to Florence in time. Consequently, we went from 5 universities to 2 - the Universities of Essex and Roehampton. At this point, all the teaching team stepped up and shared their university insights: 1) Ms. Gonzalez, on her Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain) and King's College, London experiences; 2) Mr Melchoir, Laurentian University Sudbury, Ontario); 3) Ms. Nehme, University of Ottawa and Carleton University (Ontario); 4) Ms. Meadows, Northampton University (UK); and 5) Mr. O'Meara, sharing his Ivy League and Princeton University (USA). We also explained the admissions process in each of these jurisdictions. Thank you to all the staff, students, and parents who attended.



Judo Classes in Term 2 - Physical Education

by Mr. Fornai

During Term 2, students attended the Judo club Yanagi in Via San Zanobi. Here the students were taken through a judo program for beginners where they learnt the foundations of judo.

It was an excellent experience for all of the students who worked really hard during classes.

Over the period of the course, students focused on the following 5 areas:

1. SEIZA; 2. REI; 3. SHIZEN HON TAI; 4. ATEMI; 5. YARKA SHOCHU GEIKO

In the first class, students had a brief warm up, using three different techniques. Then they learnt how to fall forward and backward - fundamentals in judo. These are useful for athletes to have good control of their body during the flying phase and on the ground.



The actual terms for these practices are: O GOSHI, or hip check, where the athlete must pass his right hand behind the back of the other athlete and, without grabbing the belt, lift him with the help of the hip. HON KESA GATAME, which is a powerful immobilization technique where the athlete stays with his arm around the head of the other athlete and his body transverses so he can control him easily (an important technique in grappling).

Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Melchior, Social Studies & Humanities.

Interview by Alessio D., Grade 9



When did you start teaching at Blyth Academy Florence?

I arrived in November 2018 to start teaching in Term 2.

How long have you been teaching?

This is my first full-time post, but I have been teaching on and off for two years.

What do you teach?

Currently History, Business, and Economics. I hope to be able to teach Philosophy.

Where are you from?

A small Northern Ontario city called Sudbury (Canada). Home of the Big Nickel.

Which University did you go to?

Laurentian University, Sudbury.

When did you first come to Italy?

I spent a term abroad here in Florence five years ago.

Why did you decide to come back?

I had vowed to come back and teach here. Then I saw the job advertisement at Blyth Academy Florence and thought it must be destiny.

Do you have Italian ancestry?

Yes, my grandparents moved to Canada from Italy. Part of my family comes from Friuli, but the majority come from Rome and a region called Ciociaria.

What is it like teaching at Blyth Academy Florence?

I love teaching here! The kids are amazing and the class sizes are perfect! Not only do I get to teach what I love, but I get to teach the content (such as Renaissance history) in the place where it originated.

Bonus question: how is your Italian?

I used to be fluent, but after not speaking it for so long I lost most of the language. I

can still understand when someone speaks to me but responding is where I have difficulty.

The Saint Anthony Village High School Chamber Choir

On a rainy morning in April the school was alive with the sound of music for the show-stopping performance from students who came to sing for us from Minnesota in the US. All of our students took part in music workshops culminating in a moving performance outside in the *cortile*.



English Summer Camp in Florence!

In July and August, Blyth Academy Florence will be running an English summer camp, open to all. Every morning students will have English immersion activities: sports and fitness, arts, team-building, culture. Each afternoon will be spent in English classes with a qualified ESL teacher. Please contact us for full details.

Via Jacopo Nardi, 18, 50132 Firenze FI, Italy | +39 055 098 2744
florence@blytheducation.com

Stay connected:

