

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Provider

The Carob Institute – Empowering Teachers continues what successfully began under the Grundschule Dresselndorf. The primary school gained experience in many different lifelong learning programmes, such as conducting Comenius school projects, inviting Comenius school assistants, taking part in study visits and in-service training courses. The school also acquired know-how in teaching CLIL lessons for several years and networking with schools from abroad has finally led to setting up the **Carob Institute** to offer teacher development courses.

The Course Leader

The course leader, Mr. Alan Marsh, is an international Tutor on Cambridge ESOL CELTA and DELTA teacher trainer and development courses. He has trained and helped develop teachers from all five continents, and regularly assesses Cambridge CELTA teacher training schemes held by prestigious teaching institutions in various countries. He has worked extensively in Italy and Malta in leading EFL language organisations and is an experienced teacher of children, teachers and adults in both monolingual and multilingual contexts. He is the President of the Malta Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language and is a regular speaker at conferences, seminars and workshops. He is British and is based in Malta where he has lived since 1993.

The European dimension

In our past courses, participants have come from a total of 27 different countries, with an average of 7 different countries represented on each course. Meeting teachers from different countries is of course interesting and motivating in itself. Also, understanding the different teaching contexts allows us to reflect on and gain insights into our own teaching situations.

The European Development Plan is an important field in the application form. More important than before. Nowadays, in the wake of Brexit and in parts critical flow about Europe and the EU in other countries as well, it's become important to think and talk positive about the Europe, especially at school. And not just to take Europe for granted. So it would be good to actively include students in the experience participants are going to make with the teachers' courses abroad. To lead the whole school community to open-minded personalities.

Taormina

The context in which the course is held, Taormina, Sicily, which once formed part of both the ancient Greek and Roman empires, not only allows us to learn much about the history, culture, economy and breathtaking natural beauty of this fascinating area on the southernmost border of the European continent. It also allows us to come into direct contact with some of the political and social challenges of a region that has been hit hard by the financial/economic crisis experienced by Italy during the last few years.

THE COURSE

PREPARATION:

The **Carob Institute – Empowering Teachers** is the organiser of the course.

Before the course, participants will be provided with

- a lesson timetable with a day-by-day-plan
- a social programme together with information about Taormina, Tochni or Rome to prepare teachers for their cultural experience
- a document with transfer organisation, accommodation and meals arrangements
- Each participant will also be provided with a map clearly indicating where the course premises are located together with a list of important numbers, which can be referred to in case of emergency.
- Participants will be asked to complete a questionnaire to ascertain their level of spoken English, their teaching context and whether they have any special physical, dietary or other needs. They will also be asked whether they have any particular pedagogical and/or linguistic interests which have not been specifically included in the sample programme and which we shall attempt to address during the course.

Before the course, participants will have to

- check, if their insurance covers stays abroad
- fill in the above mentioned pre-course questionnaire

OBJECTIVES

Creativity, the key word in the course

The course focusses on creativity in the classroom. Experiencing that something new and somehow valuable can be found out and formed makes learning meaningful and valuable. Creativity turns new ideas into reality. Creativity is the ability to look at things in new ways, to find hidden patterns, and to generate solutions. This is a motivating and satisfying approach to learning and will be shown in the course even for learning grammar and new vocabulary. The course works on various ideas to

engage students. These methods are often competitive, with different approaches like visual, auditive, kinesthetic. Methods provide fun in class, but don't miss taking students to a learning increase. They include music and arts and funny theatre.

This course is aimed at practising or recently qualified teachers of English of learners aged 8-14 who wish to:

Increase learner motivation by

- using creative teaching methods
- encountering innovative, learner-centred ideas and teaching techniques
- building their own and their learners' confidence in English

Support inclusive teaching and combat early school-leaving by

- exploring various co-operative and collaborative teaching techniques to appeal to different learner types and styles and to foster inclusive learning
- experiencing ways of training learners to take some responsibility for their own development
- share experiences with teachers from other countries

The course is designed for teachers of learners aged 8 – 14. But the content can easily be adapted to younger or older students.

To be able to follow the course successfully, a minimum level of B1 (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.

The course is not designed for native-speakers, as there is a language development part included in the course.

METHODOLOGY

- participants will be in multi-lingual groups where all the interaction will be in English (and therefore a minimum CEF B1 (Pre-intermediate) level of spoken English is required)
- sessions will be workshop-based and will be practical and 'hands-on': they will involve participant-centred experimentation and discussion. They will be based on the principle that learning, particularly for learners of this age group, needs to be motivating, meaningful and memorable for it to be effective
- sessions will also include components in which participants' own language skills are developed through various language learning techniques; participants will then be shown ways in which these techniques can be adapted for young learners

FOLLOW-UP

At the end of the course participants will be given a feedback questionnaire so that they can comment on the course and make any appropriate suggestions. The course will also encourage reflection on modes of dissemination of what they have learnt and found useful for their own teaching contexts.

This will be followed up several months later by a questionnaire / a letter encouraging learners to consider ways in which the course has impacted on their own teaching.

Providing an email list of all participants they are asked to share their experiences with their colleagues.