



UK-German Connection

Deutsch-Britische Schul- und Jugendbegegnungen
bringing young people together

UK-German Connection – bringing young people together is dedicated to increasing contacts and understanding between young people in the UK and Germany. It is a bilateral initiative, which has been developed and established in collaboration between the UK and German governments, the British Council and Pädagogischer Austauschdienst.



“Stereotypes wither where human contacts flourish.”

“...we should continue to encourage our young people to know more about each other’s countries.”

(HM Queen Elizabeth II)

„Unsere Völker verbindet ein sehr enges Verhältnis.“ (...) wir müssen daran arbeiten, “dass mehr junge Briten nach Deutschland kommen”.

(Horst Köhler, Federal President of Germany)



On the occasion of the state visit to Germany by HM the Queen, November 2004

Joint declaration 2017

Joint declaration by the German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sigmar Gabriel, and the UK Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson; 19 July 2017



“Today’s younger generation will determine the future of the relationship between Germany and the United Kingdom. (...) We want to intensify our governments’ efforts in order to increase the interaction between our young people. (...) We both share the ambition for a substantially larger number of young people and teachers to benefit from future exchanges, to build cultural ties and strengthen language learning.”



“(...) The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow, and we want to establish friendships between our young people that will last a lifetime.”

(HRH Prince William, 19 July 2017)



Funded by / stakeholders

- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
 - Department for Education (England)
 - British Council
-
- German Foreign Ministry (Auswärtiges Amt)
 - Pädagogischer Austauschdienst



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



Auswärtiges Amt



Department
for Education



**KULTUSMINISTER
KONFERENZ**
*Pädagogischer
Austauschdienst*

Target groups

Schools: primary, secondary, SEN, FE Colleges

Youth groups

Young people (not at uni)

In both countries



Our aims & objectives

- increasing **contact & understanding** and facilitating relevant **dialogue** between young people
- actively **engaging** young people
- equipping young people with intercultural and 'global' **skills**
- enhancing **learning** in an authentic international context
- supporting sustainable **partnerships**



Programmes & opportunities

- Thematic youth seminars and webinars
- Language & culture immersion courses
- Digital engagement initiatives
- Networks for young people and teachers, eg Youth Council, Young Voices, Ambassador and Alumni initiatives
- Trips and joint projects for primary schools
- Support service for school and youth partnerships
- Funding (grants) for schools and youth groups
- Professional development opportunities for teachers
- Information & advice



Support for partnerships

- Funding
 - staff planning visits
 - first-time taster trips
 - thematic projects and activities
- partnerships support service, including partner-finding
- support with logistics and safeguarding
- facilitation of planning discussions
- bicultural expertise, project guidance & partnership workshops
- facilitated partnership webinars
- mentor networks for coordinators
- resources and toolkits / showcasing

Promoting intercultural visits to senior leadership

- Benefits to pupils' learning and skills development
 - broadening horizons and intercultural awareness
 - confidence-building and other personal skills
 - skills for the global workplace
 - linguistic and subject learning
- Whole-school involvement
 - intercultural dimension
 - cross-curricular subject enrichment
- Motivation > uptake and attainment
- CPD for staff
- Funding available

An intercultural boost across the school

“Our school felt that we had brought **a piece of the world into the classroom** by hosting the German teacher for 3 weeks. It encouraged our students to see things from a **different perspective**, preparing them to become **good citizens**.”

“The mere fact of having students from another country in school **created** a **“buzz”** which cannot be measured and should not be underestimated.”

Motivation, language uptake & attainment

“This has been one of the most valuable experiences of my life, and has once again **ignited my passion** for this country, this culture and this language.”

After you speaking to our Year 9s, the **uptake for German GCSE** this year has doubled! (18 kids in year 10) Thanks for all your hard work! It was worth it!”

Broadening horizons

“I am still amazed by the power that one experience like this can have. It has **shaped my current and future study**, and permanently **changed my views on the world.**”

“German language is no longer such an abstract concept for our pupils as they have been able to **connect with German pupils** and Germany.”

“The students **grew in confidence** and self-assuredness by being allowed to work and express themselves in a European environment. Their **communication and problem-solving skills** were enhanced by the process. It has allowed them to **break down their own preconceptions** of different cultures and place their view in a much wider and informed context.”

Confidence-building

"I remember being 16 and apprehensive about going to a different country with people I didn't know but I **made friends really quickly**. Everyone is in the same boat! It's been incredible and it really **changed my life**."

"The trip enabled my son to take another step in his young adulthood as he **got to grips with a culture** and a family that were very different from his own."

"I feel that my **confidence has grown** massively, both in the German language and as a person."

"This has really helped to build the pupils' growing confidence and independence. It has **broadened their horizons** and **opened up their minds** to all sorts of possibilities and opportunities for their future lives"

Language skills

“This had a significant impact on students as it supported improved **linguistic competence**, increased **self-confidence** and promoted a heightened awareness of **intercultural communication**.”

“Students who started the week shy and intimidated came out of their shells. Linguistically, they all **came on in leaps and bounds** and the Year 11 students in particular said that they felt more confident about their speaking exams and 3 of them said that they were **now considering German A-level**.”

“Pupils (and teachers) got first hand cultural and language expertise from a qualified teacher in Germany. This exchange **helped bring the language alive** for our pupils”

Raising the profile of visits and languages

“There was a lot of resistance against exchange trips in my school and people tried to convince me that it was impossible or too complicated to organise trips to Germany. Through the teacher’s forum **I have gained more confidence**. I felt that I knew it wasn’t impossible and I had the support from you.”

“The visit **raised the profile of German** with our Headteacher and most importantly the governors. All but one of the mentors have signed up to do A-level German next year.”

“The experience **sparked the pupils’ interest** in Germany and its culture and has **led to the introduction of German** teaching in our school.”

“The trip **helped to strengthen German** and raise awareness for German in school.”

CPD

“As a teacher it was a fantastic opportunity to be immersed in German and has really **refreshed my language and enthusiasm** for teaching it. It was so uplifting to witness how much fun the pupils whilst experiencing first hand some of what Germany has to offer.”

“The Host a teacher from Germany' initiative has been instrumental in providing our pupils and staff with an **authentic experience of German school life** as well as delivering us a perfect hands-on approach to delivering the German language at its very basic level.”

“I enjoyed learning about school-life in Germany and **exchanging current practice**”

Promoting intercultural visits to pupils

- Peer-to-peer initiatives / exchange ambassadors
- Cross-departmental promotion & involvement
- Direct / indirect involvement, including digital lead-in and follow-up
- Financial support

Online & digital

www.ukgermanconnection.org
the-voyage / voyage kids /
Professionals & Parents



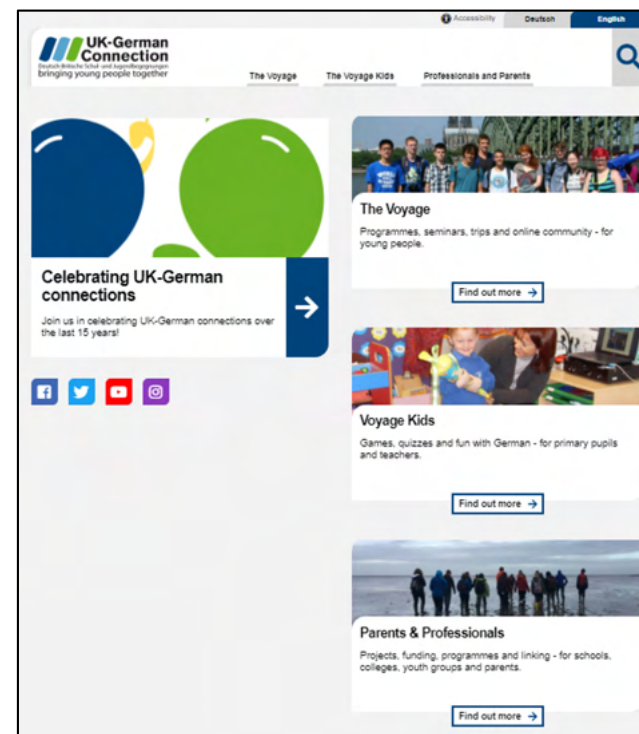
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