



International Day Of Learning (IDOL)

What is it?

On our IDOL days we invite British pupils of the same age as our foreign students to come and spend the day with us. UKLC has got very strong links with many British schools in the North West and they have agreed to release a certain number of students for a day at a time to come and work with your group.

Where does this happen?

Our IDOL days take place in Chester and the surrounding areas for both our homestay and residential mini stay programmes (based on travel dates)

What Happens?

At 9am the group of British students arrive and meet our foreign students. UKLC staff will divide all the students up to mix British and foreign students into groups of approx. 15 to 20. The morning is spent doing a workshop where the students will complete a task in small mixed groups that will involve a presentation. At the end of the morning presentations are judged by teachers and group leaders. The students will then all have lunch together. The afternoon is then spent enjoying sports and activities in small mixed groups until the end of the British school day.

How is it different to an integration programme?

In an integration programme foreign students attend timetabled lessons in a British school. Whilst this introduces them to the environment of a school. There is little chance for the student to get any individual attention. Students with lower levels of English will not get the most out of the experience. Our teachers have specific qualifications in teaching second language learners. The smaller class sizes also help with individual attention. UKLC has learnt that by bringing British and foreign students together outside the normal class situation, the atmosphere is relaxed and the chance for the students to converse with their peers and practise their English is far better.

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What does it involve and how are the students learning?

We have many different types of workshop depending on the age and interests of the students. Often the task may focus on the students swapping information about their lives and studies and comparing them. Older students can undertake more demanding workshops – for example where they must design and present a new product for young people and convince the teachers and leaders to invest in their idea.

The Emphasis is on cross-cultural communication and actively producing previously learnt language. Tasks are guided by the teacher but our student-centred methodology encourages as much interaction between the British and foreign students as possible.

Why do British schools like IDOL?

As mother tongue English speakers many believe that British students have a big advantage. In other countries so much focus is placed on language learning and in order to get ahead, you must speak English. However, with there being far more non-native speakers of English than mother tongue speakers of English, young British pupils need to learn a new skill and the ability to communicate and converse with someone whose first language is not English. This is not as obvious as it seems and when we invite the British pupils to our IDOL days they report that they learned a lot about communication and also that they had the chance to mix with and find out about people their own age from a completely different culture.

How do I book IDOL for my group?

With these programmes we include a minimum of one IDOL day. If you have an enquiry then we would advise on the best time to travel in order not to conflict with exam times or holidays at British schools and we would endeavour to find groups of the same age as your students from our bank of partner schools.

For more information contact jamie@uklc.org