

## **Collaboration between CU Scarborough and Casa Minunata School**

Students from CU Scarborough have been visiting Casa Minunata School for 3 years as part of a week-long international experience in Romania. The leader of this trip, Claire Barwick, has a long-standing collaboration with Casa Minunata after similar annual visits to the school since June 2007. The drive for this long-standing collaboration is the outstanding teaching practice at Casa Minunata alongside the excellent learning environment and happy, engaged children.

### **Our Organisation -**

CU Scarborough

Ashburn Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO11 2JW

Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor: Ms Kay Fraser

Head of Curriculum, Health and Education: Ms Claire Barwick

We are a Higher Education Institution delivering a range of programmes from Access to Honours Degrees. The collaboration is between the staff and students within the Department of Health and Education during an annual visit to Casa Minunata led by Claire Barwick.

### **Aims and benefits of the Collaboration**

The aim of the collaboration between Casa Minunata School and CU Scarborough is to bring a range of benefits to students/pupils and staff from both organisations.

Benefits for CU Scarborough students:

- Gain an insight into the schooling system in Romania.
- Exposure to an all-inclusive school environment and ethos.
- Engagement with children using a range of communication strategies.
- Development of innovative ways of playing and working with children, when there is not a shared common language.
- Learning to plan, devise and deliver activities to children with a range of abilities and needs.
- Enhancing team working ability.

Benefits for CU Scarborough staff:

- Participation in an international trip.
- Raising the profile of CU Scarborough in a global context.
- Experiential learning and shared experiences that can then be disseminated amongst other students within CU Scarborough.

- Staff development.
- Sharing ideas with teachers at Casa Minunata.

Benefits for Casa Minunata pupils:

- Participation in a range of educational and fun activities.
- Enhancing communication strategies when playing and working with others.
- Learning new skills.
- Exposure to people from another country.

Benefits for Casa Minunata School:

- Raising the profile of Casa Minunata in a global context.
- Creation of links for support and exposure of outstanding teaching practice in Romania.
- International collaboration and cooperation with the UK.
- Sharing ideas to develop and enhance excellence in teaching.

### **Previous visits**

2017 - 14 students from Health and Education degree programmes. Two staff members.

2018 - 16 students from Health and Education degree programmes. Three staff members.

2019 - 14 students from Health and Education degree programmes Three staff members.

### **Activities Undertaken during the Collaboration**

- Therapeutic dance
- Dream catchers
- Colouring dollies
- Loom bands
- Pipe cleaner key rings
- Instant Photos
- Play time activities – football, parachute games, singing games.

### **Future plans for 2020 and beyond**

- To increase the number of students from CU Scarborough who can attend the trip and gain the valuable experience of visiting Casa Minunata School.
- To continue to develop the range of educational play activities offered to Casa Minunata pupils during the visit.
- To offer health-related play activities to the pupils at Casa Minunata School.
- Collaboration between staff to continue to showcase the excellent teaching practice at Casa Minunata.









