

My personal journey whilst in Rome

by

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The meanings of the three colours of the flag of Italy are:

- green represents the country's plains and the hills,
- white, the Alps mountains covered in snow
- red represents blood spilt in the Wars of Italian Independence.

a more religious interpretation is that:

- green represents hope,
- white is faith
- red represents charity.



United Kingdom (UK) Flag represents the following:

- White - peace and honesty
- Red - hardiness, bravery, strength & valour
- Blue - vigilance, truth and loyalty, perseverance & justice



Education



11 March 2014:

I met an English Language teacher called Mrs Paola Palmegiani:

- I was allowed to sit in on a double English Literature lesson and I then went to another English speaking lesson
- I was asked to introduce myself to the students and I found that they were courteous, engaging and very well behaved
- All of the students in both classes told me that they intended to go to university and most of them said they would attend an university in Rome
- I was told that discipline was not a problem at this school and that the teachers did not have to have radios with them to call for assistance – unlike those in London

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UFFICIO SCOLASTICO REGIONALE PER IL LAZIO
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00144 ROMA - Viale della Civiltà del Lavoro 2/d



Differences

In the two classrooms I was in:

- I saw no sign of any ICT equipment and I was surprised that the register was taken manually
- I saw no sign of any students work displayed on the classroom walls – this was acknowledged and I was told that from next September they would make sure that the classrooms had students work displayed.
- I noticed the differences in teaching styles

Working conditions

Mrs Paola Palmegiani explained the amount of contact and preparation time she had within the school. This was 18 hours a week and 18 for preparation.

In England we are expected to teach for at least 24 hours – depending on our status within the department.

Although we do have up to 3 hours a week protected time in order for us to prepare/mark students work.

Working Life

This is where the biggest differences showed:

- Currently in the UK a teacher can take early retirement at 55 years of age [teachers pension scheme]
- Although the state retirement age in the UK has been increased to 65 it is transitional
- In Italy there only appears to be a one year transitional period and then it is automatically 67 years of age
- There is a lot of anger about these changes

Teacher Vacancies

Mrs Paola Palmegiani told me that it was virtually impossible to find any teaching vacancies in Italy during this period because of the economic climate.

This is in total contrast within the UK:

- 330 Primary school vacancies within London
- 3,412 Secondary school vacancies within the UK

<http://www.tes.co.uk/> 28 March 2014

Italian lessons



Alfredo and Stefano made our Italian lessons interesting and fun

Forza



Forza

