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The classroom of the future

Educators and students explain how technology will shape learning



“OUR VIRTUAL CLASSROOM HELPED US COLLABORATE”

A website connected two MYP Year 5 classes on different continents when they came together to create a successful unit on the literature of World War I. Students at Carrollwood Day School (CDS) in the US and the International School of Dusseldorf (ISD) in Germany shared ideas, poems and field trips, creating a virtual classroom.

CDS MYP English Teacher Philip Dailey says: “One day it occurred to me that we teachers know so much, we have so many good lessons, and yet we are so alone in our classrooms. That is how the idea came about.”

The students first met in real-time via Skype before creating a website with Google Sites, called ‘A Study of The Great War, to help create a more peaceful world through international understanding’. They shared videos, read poems and had access to class

exercises where students could add their comments.

ISD MYP Coordinator, Laura Maly-Schmidt, says: “Students enjoyed analysing poetry together with CDS students and were excited to receive feedback. They found things they hadn’t thought of before. The idea of having a wider audience than just people in our classroom motivated students.”

The schools also shared experiences. CDS hosted a presentation where members of the US Army spoke about their military experiences and answered questions from students at both schools. ISD also travelled from Germany to Ypres, Belgium, to visit WWI battlegrounds, trenches and museums and made videos to show CDS students in the States. “The aim was to take them on a virtual field trip,” adds Maly-Schmidt.

