

2022/2023



# Blue Star Programme

## Final Report

*Let's get creative about Europe!*



## School Details

**School Name: Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe**

**School Address:**

**Shanahoe, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois R32 F899**

**Uimhir Rolla:**

**17489G**

**Teacher Name: Barry Whelan**



All Blue Star Programme Reports are to be submitted by **5pm, Wednesday 17 May 2023**. You may submit your report anytime before then, once you have completed the 4 elements and have held some sort of Europe Day celebration. If you intend to do any part of the Programme after 17 May 2023, please contact us to let us know and we will be happy to accommodate you. These dates are set so we can get to you your Certificates of Achievement before the school term is over.

**Any questions, please contact us [bluestar@europeanmovement.ie](mailto:bluestar@europeanmovement.ie). Thank you.**



## Historical

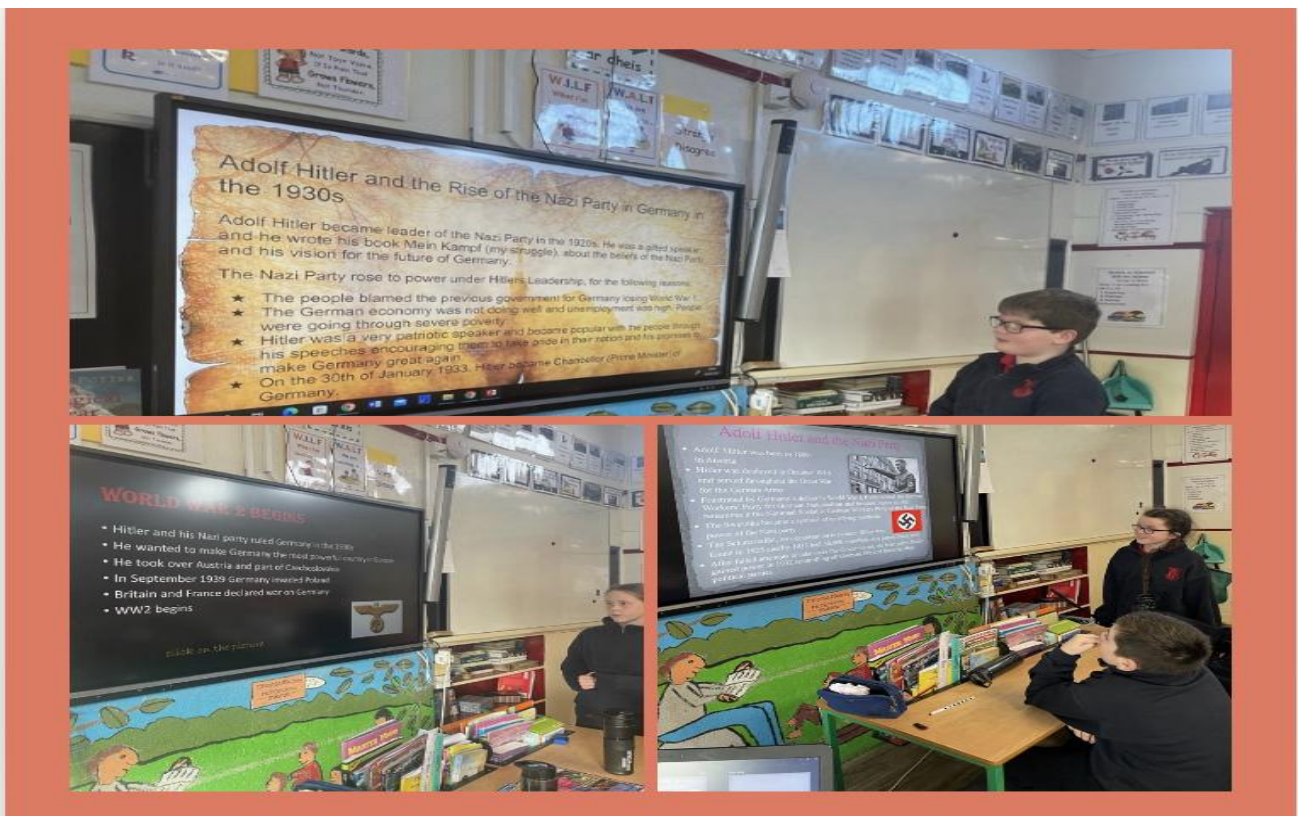
We integrated our work in History and what we had learned about the Blitz during World War 2 to create Anderson Shelters in the classroom!



The class was very engaged with this learner experience and high levels of imagination and creativity were evident.

## Historical Element (continued)

As part of our work on the Historical element of the 'Blue Star Programme', we researched and prepared projects on **World War 2** and what we had learned about it. We presented our work as PowerPoint presentations to the rest of the class.



The class was very engaged with this learner experience.

## Historical Element (continued)

As part of the Historical Element of the programme, meaningful lines of integration were opened up with the Visual Arts curriculum and the Construction strand therein and the class created models of various things connected with World War 2.



Very high levels of engagement were evident among all pupils and there was great attention to detail in the work that was completed.

## Geographical Element

Having completed our unit of work on **Italy** in Geography, the class worked in groups to complete projects about Italy under different headings. They first conducted research online and they then drew everything that they had learned together in the form of PowerPoint presentations. These were then presented to the rest of the class.



Very high levels of interest and engagement were evident across the class.



## Cultural & Creative Element

As part of our study of **Italy** as a country, we had an '*Italian Experience*' during which we sampled different Italian cuisine including pizza, lasagne, prosciutto ham and olives. It was a veritable taste sensation!







## Cultural & Creative Element (continued)

As part of the Cultural and Creative Element of the programme, the pupils looked at and responded to images of Roman mosaics as part of their study of **Italy** as a country. They then created their own mosaics by drawing on different thematic influences.



High levels of engagement, imagination, creativity and attention to detail came to the fore during this learner experience.

## Cultural & Creative Element (continued)

As part of the Cultural and Creative Element of the programme and our study of Italy as a country, we looked at and responded to images of famous Italian landmarks. We then sketched these using different media.



High levels of interest and engagement were evident.



## Institutional Element

As part of the Institutional Element of the programme, Minister Seán Fleming who is Minister of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs and our local T.D, visited the school and spoke to us about the work of the E.U and the benefits for Ireland in terms of being an E.U member state. Minister Fleming also outlined the nature of his work with the E.U Parliament in Brussels.





Pupils were very interested and attentive during Minister Fleming's visit and they presented very relevant and pertinent questions to him.

## Europe Day Celebrations

Minister Fleming's visit coincided with Europe Day on May 9th. It was a milestone occasion in that it was the 50th anniversary of Ireland's accession to the E.U in 1973. The school band played for Minister Fleming on his arrival. A 5th Class pupil welcomed him to the school and outlined the work that 5th & 6th Class had been doing this year as part of their participation in the '*Blue Star Programme*'. The Chairperson of our Student Council presented Minister Fleming with a copy of our local history and folklore collection '*Tracing our Past: Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe*' which was compiled by pupils of the school in the school year 2021-2022 and officially launched in December 2022. Questions that the pupils from 1st to 6th Class presented to Minister Fleming included:

1. In your role as Minister of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs, do you do a lot of work with the European Union on a weekly basis? What is the nature of the work that you do with the E.U?
2. What do you consider to be the greatest benefits for Ireland in terms of it being an E.U member state?
3. What level of representation does Ireland have in terms of Members of the European Parliament or MEPs and are these representatives based in Brussels all of the time?
4. How have things changed for Ireland over the course of the last 50 years since it became a member state of the EU in 1973?
5. Is Dáil Éireann marking Europe Day this year the fact that it is the 50th Anniversary of Ireland joining the EU?

Minister Fleming very kindly presented us with very nice E.U themed gifts.



## Europe Day Celebrations



High levels of interest and engagement were evident among all pupils during Europe Day celebrations on May 9th.







## Element Quizzes

Did your school participate in the Element Quizzes? If so do you complete all four Element Quizzes? Please provide any additional feedback you had on the quizzes here.

We did not participate in the element quizzes this year, we chose to submit this report instead.

## Feedback

Please include any additional thoughts or comments that you had about the Blue Star Programme: would you participate again, how could the Programme be improved, did you do anything particularly different as part of your Programme?

Participating in the '*Blue Star Programme*' again this year was a very worthwhile experience for the pupils in 5th & 6th Class in the school. It really enhanced their understanding of different aspects of the E.U through the exploration of the different elements of the programme namely the Geographical, Historical, Cultural and Creative and Institutional. It allowed meaningful lines of integration to be opened up between different subject areas of the curriculum and it was a very positive experience overall.





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