

EUROPEAN SECTION AT JACQUES PREVERT

The european section is a special class made for motivated students that wish to go further in their learning of the english language, culture and history. This 3 years long option consists in two additional hours in your weekly schedule. Both of them are in english but one is focused on history and the other one on litterature. Along the year, you'll be given the chance to do multiple projects and sometimes, trips (this year's one was in Jersey), which allow you a bigger, more realistic and new visualization of what the english culture within the european territory is.

One of the project we did was an invitation card to Juliet's birthday party, as if we were in Shakespeare's famous play: Romeo and Juliet. I chose to talk about this particular activity because I believe it is the most relevant example of what we can possibly do, in terms of activities, in the european section. It combines british culture, literature and historically known figures, but also handmade work, art and imagination. It wasn't all work or all fun. It was a balanced mix of both, which is what the european section is about (in my opinion at least).

One of the main goals, apart from making our card esthetically pleasing, was to give hints about what is going to happen in the play (such as the protagonists' death), without saying it explicitly. In this activity, you must craft and color, but also think of ways to hide the informations, and make well written english sentences. When I first started, I had a lot of troubles thinking about what I was going to do. I immediately picked up that it was a bit far from the approach we usually have of school work, so I was really motivated and I had plenty of energy but, since It was my very first high school project, it also scared me, as well as making me anxious. What saved me is that we were able to see some cards that other students did the previous years so we had an idea of where to head, which helped me a lot. Overall, I keep a good memory of this activity and the hours I spent working on it. I estimate that the efforts I put in payed, because I'm proud of the production I came up with.

As a person who loves english, I appreciated my year in the european section. It sure gave me more work than a regular class but I am willing to do it, as I know it benefits my high school experience. I'm glad I chose this path, because of all the additional knowledge about the english language I was given, and the many interesting facts I learned about the royal family, Henri VIII, Shakespeare, or even dystopias like The Walking Dead. I have no regrets choosing the european section and I can confidently say that I'm excited about next year.

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