



No personal development without challenges...

The IGS Landau (= Integrierte Gesamtschule/Comprehensive school) is a school for secondary education (lower and upper) for students aged 10-19. It was founded in 2010 and has grown into a 860 students-community. We started upper secondary level last year and will offer our first "Abitur" (A-level) in 2019. The IGS Landau has focused on ways of dealing with diversity, in everyday school life as well as in lessons. Many projects are part of this approach, and one project will now be explained in more detail.

What we do

In year 8 and year 10 (14 and 16 year olds), our students are asked to meet a challenge. It is an obligatory project for them.

A challenge can be a physical challenge (e.g. go on a bike trip through Germany), an educational challenge (e.g. live in a town/family away from home and attend school), a group challenge (e.g. rehearse a piece of theatre and perform it in different locations), a political challenge (e.g. a project at the former German-German border), and many others.

In any case, students write an application/draft, in which they describe their challenge and why they think it will be a challenge for them.

Some of these challenges are carried out in groups (with permanent teacher assistance), others are met with individually or in pairs (with continued, but not permanent teacher assistance). The preparatory process takes 6 months so that students make it their own project in the course of their planning. If costs extend 350 €, the groups/students have to find ways to earn/raise money.

What's new for students in year 12 (17-18 years of age)?

We started this challenge project for the first time in 2017. The students' challenge is to take place in a European (foreign) country in which people do not speak German. They are asked to find a project in which they enhance their language competences as well as their intercultural competences. We give them four guidelines to find their project:

- live in a family and attend a school
- take part in an international work-camp
- find an institution that fosters education for peace, the protection of the environment and a sustainable lifestyle, political participation, historical awareness, etc.
- find a work placement

Again, the prep process starts in December, students have to „apply“ for/describe their challenge, and teachers support them by giving advice, asking questions, coaching, connecting, etc.

The actual period of the „challenge“ is from 6th to 17th August 2018 directly after our summer holidays. After these two weeks, a two day reflection time is part of the project, in connection with a presentation open to the public (i.e. parents, teachers, and the whole school).

Students have the opportunity to extend the project by using one or two weeks of their summer holidays.

We believe that this project enables students to widen their horizons, to develop attitudes and values, to enhance their understanding of the world, and thus to take a further step in their personal (and professional) development.

It can be seen as one way of „educating democratic citizenship“ in a very practical and down to earth way, within and at the same time outside school curriculums.

CONTACT: Ralf Gauweiler

IGS Landau, Schneiderstraße 69, 76829 Landau
0049-6341-134550, ralf.gauweiler@landau.de