**Week One Report**

**Your Thoughts on Greece-An Experiential School Project**

**Our project “Your Thoughts on Greece” was officially created in July 2017. Before that our teacher, Miss Irene had created “Your Thoughts on Athens” a project which we completed in March 2017.**

**We all know that tourism in Greece has always been a key element of the economic activity. It is one of the country’s most important sectors. Athens, in 2017, was named the fourth best destination in Europe for travellers. On the whole, in 2017, Greece was one of the most visited countries in Europe** **and the** **whole world.**

**The aim of this project was to ‘break the walls” of our classroom and get students outdoors. Our teacher wanted us to practise the second language we were learning, mainly English. Miss Irene wanted us to gain knowledge outside the classroom. By doing this project we would be using other skills important to our future, like critical thinking, problem solving and team work. But mainly, we would we given the chance to speak and interact with the tourists.**

**Due to the huge number of tourists and articles that were going around about Greece, our teacher brought an article about tourism in Greece to class and we all talked about the reasons why tourists would want to visit Greece. We prepared 11 questions about Greece, got into small groups, rehearsed the questions and also answered the questions as if we were tourists ourselves. We also talked about the problems we might face. For example, being refused by tourists. But that’s life. We all should know that tourists aren’t all going to agree to take part in our interview.**

**Our teacher informed us that we would be going to the centre of Athens, in front of The Acropolis Museum and we would ask tourists to take part in our survey. At the end of the survey, we would give out to all the tourists who participated, the traditional Greek candy “the pasteli” -a honey sesame bar with a thank you note. That was the beginning. Many other schools around Greece and Cyprus joined in and did the same project as well. Teachers and students were very enthusiastic.**

**The students of our school have done this project three times so far, this school year 2017-2018. Once in late September, on the 22nd of October and on the 14th December. We plan on doing it 3-4 more times by the end of May 2018. However, something was added to the questionnaire we used for our last fieldtrip. We added a 12th question “Should the British Museum return the Parthenon Marbles to Greece?” On Sunday the 14th January our school “The IS Xanthea Language School” collaborated with the students from the Lexithiria Language School and stopped tourists in front of the Acropolis Museum and asked them the 12 questions concerning Greece, including the one about the Marbles.**

**The specific SDG that connects with our project is the 16th which involves justice and that’s what we students are asking for- JUSTICE. We have started out asking tourists about their opinions first about the Parthenon Marbles and then we wish to go further than this. We believe the Marbles belong to Greece, they are Greek and should be returned back to the country they were immorally and illicitly taken from.**

**We will continue on doing our project “Your Thoughts On Greece” throughout the school year and our school also plans on taking it abroad; going to England and asking the people there about their thoughts on Greece and of course about the return of the Marbles.**

**We know that we will face many difficulties including indifference from people and officials but that won’t stop us from asking and demanding the return of the Marbles. We know that the return of the Marbles involves governments and governments have power but we, children, do as well. We can try and we shall.**

**The students from the IS XANTHEA Language School**