

After working in Italy with the World Education Programme last year, they suggested this summer to work and collaborate with XKe? as a "Laboratory Assistant", and, of course, I jumped at the opportunity! XKe? is an incredible company, who provide short, two hour laboratories for children and teenagers from all backgrounds during the summer holidays. There are 6 laboratories, all of which provide both technical and cognitive tasks. I really enjoy the morals behind these laboratories, one example of which is called "Quanta Costa?", which allows the children to think about the impact of their diet on the environment, and in turn, how to reduce this impact by making small changes. Over the three weeks that I worked at XKe? I began to integrate English into these laboratories, and it was incredible seeing the excitement from the children when they discovered that I was English and couldn't speak much Italian!

Throughout the three weeks working at XKe? I began to meet all of the team. On my first day, I met Viviana and Mattia, who showed us around the entire building and carefully explained all of the laboratories in order to ease any worries for when I began the next day. I found it brilliant how every team member was so welcoming and happy to speak English, even if they were not extremely confident in their speaking abilities! Over the weeks we had loads of fun with the team, from going out for gelato, pasta, and pizza, to sushi, drinks, and a whole team meal. I am very grateful to have made so many friends at XKe? and cannot wait to see them again in the future!

We would work in teams of three in the laboratories every day, where one would take place in the morning, and another in the afternoon. I found it very useful that a lot of the equipment (for example, the names of bike parts on pieces of card) in the activities within the laboratories were translated into English, as this helped when explaining the aim of the activities to the children. I found that speaking English really helped to focus the children on the activity, as they had to think more to understand. However, whether the children were talking about the laboratory or not, they were generally very excited to try and speak whatever English they could with me! I am so happy that I was able to make these children feel happy and confident with English.

I would like to give a big thankyou to the team at XKe? for giving me this amazing experience of living and working in Turin this summer, and making my time both in and out of work an altogether really fun time. THANKYOU!!

Jess Bargery-Stroud