

# Dream School

## Topic

Education and school

## Aims

- To help students talk about education
- To develop students' reading skills
- To expand students' vocabulary
- To develop students' speaking and listening

## Age group

Teens

## Level

B1

## Time

60 minutes

## Materials

- Dream School student worksheet

## Introduction

British kids are having problems at school. In this lesson, students read about a TV chef who wants to improve education in Britain. They invent their ideal school and then present their ideas to their classmates.

## Procedure

### 1. Introduction (5 – 10 mins)

- Ask your students if they have (or had) a favourite or least favourite subject at school. You could tell them what you liked and didn't like (and why) when you were at school.
- Write the following anagrams of school subjects on the board. Students unjumble the anagrams in pairs. Ask the first pair to finish to write the school subjects on the

board.

1 STORYHI

2 GRAGEOPHY

3 THAMS

4 SICUM

5 LISHNGE

*Answers: 1 History, 2 Geography, 3 Maths, 4 Music, 5 English*

- Ask students what else they study (or studied) at school. Are any subjects obligatory? What exams do people usually take before they leave school? What do they know about official school exams in the UK?

**UK education: Full-time education in the UK is compulsory for all children aged between 5 and 16 in the UK. Students can then continue their secondary studies for a further two years. Students usually do GCSE exams at age 16 and then A levels at 18.**

**2. Task 1: Dream School (15 mins)**

- Tell the students that they are going to read a text called 'Dream school'. Ask them to predict which of the following the text might be about:

- A) A dream interpretation school.  
B) A perfect school  
C) A school where pupils learn while they are sleeping

- Hand out Task 1. Set a 2-minute time limit for students to read the text to check if their prediction was correct. (B is the correct answer)  
Students read the text again to decide if the statements in exercise A are true or false. Students compare answers in pairs then check as a class.
- Start exercise B as a class to find one or two examples of school and education vocabulary. Students continue in pairs. You could set a time limit of 4 minutes. Ask the pair with the most words to read out their list then invite others to add to the list.
- Ask a student to read out the first couple of items on the 'ideal school' list in paragraph 3 and ask the others if they agree or disagree with the statements. Students can continue exercise C individually and then compare in pairs. Do they have similar ideas to each other / the children interviewed?

Tip: Fast finishers can invent more school subject anagrams, like in the introduction to the lesson.

**Answers Task 1 A: 1 true, 2 false (2 GCSE qualifications), 3 true, 4 true, 5 false (experts in their field), 6 (exams and discipline are not mentioned)**

*Suggested answers Task 1 B:*

*Dream school*

*Everyone in Britain knows Jamie Oliver, the multimillionaire TV chef. But when he left school at 16 with just 2 GCSE qualifications his teachers didn't imagine that he would become so famous a few years later. Jamie's school experience is unfortunately not unusual. In the UK, 47% of young people leave school at 16 with very few qualifications.*

*Jamie is now on TV again in the documentary series Jamie's Dream School. The programme tries to create the school that Jamie wanted when he was younger. A class of 20 kids aged 16-18 are taught subjects by a team of experts in their field including hip hop vocalist Tinchy Stryder and around-the-world sailor Ellen MacArthur. The idea is to inspire the young people to become interested in learning, to feel positive about school and to encourage them to stay in education. If you want to go to Dream school you can see clips of this fascinating show on YouTube.*

*What's your idea of a Dream school? A newspaper asked school students to describe their ideal school. These were some of the things that the children wanted:*

*A flexible timetable*

*Time to understand things*

*Speakers that play music instead of a bell*

*A teacher-pupil swap day*

*A very big door so that everyone can go into school together*

*Tables in the playground*

*More flexibility to choose subjects*

*Better whiteboards*

*A bigger building*

*More stationery for pupils*

*Longer ICT lessons*

*Nice, smiling teachers*

*Friendly children*

**3. Task 2: My dream school (20 – 30 mins)**

- Ask the students which of the items on the 'ideal school list' in the text relate to students (e.g., friendly children), teachers (e.g., nice, smiling teachers), facilities (e.g., better whiteboards), materials (e.g., more stationery), the school building (e.g., very big door), discipline (not mentioned in text), exams (not mentioned in text).

- Hand out Task 2. Ask students for some ideas for the different categories on the table in exercise A and make notes on the board. Students then continue in pairs to invent their ideal school and make notes of their ideas.

TIP: if students have conflicting ideas about an 'ideal school' they can compromise and use some ideas from each partner.

- Tell the students that they are going to prepare a presentation. Ask them to read the instructions and useful language in exercise B. Give students a few minutes to prepare what they want to say for the presentation on their ideal school. Encourage them to use the useful language and to use notes rather than read from a script.
- If you have a large class, arrange the pairs into groups and ask each pair to take turns giving their presentation to their group. Ask a spokesperson from each group to tell you what they can remember about each 'ideal school'.
- With a smaller class, each pair can give their presentation to the class. You could then have a class vote on the best school.

### Contributed by

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