

## BLOG – PROJECT SHEETS 2017

### PROPOSAL: Teaching staff of Liceo Classico Statale “Muratori San Carlo” Modena (Emilia Romagna) – Italy

**REFERENCE TEACHER:** Caterina Monari

**ACTIVITY PROJECT 2017-2018:** "The slow time of the Longobards. *Ad Italiam venit*"

**GUIDING IDEA:**

In collaboration with the State Archive in Modena, classes 2E and 2F of the Liceo Classico “Muratori – San Carlo” are starting work on a Teaching Workshop entitled “The slow time of the Longobards. *Ad Italiam venit*”, concerning the Longobards' arrival in Italy (568 AD) - of which the 1450th anniversary falls next year - and their settlement in the peninsula, with particular attention to the traces left by the Longobards in the territory around Modena. The strip of territory between the provinces of Bologna and Modena – which between the 6th and the 7th century marked the military boundary between the Byzantine Exarchate and the Longobard Kingdom of Italy - still bears important traces of a significant past in Italian history. Archaeological traces, but also “intangible” evidence, such as dialect words, place names, personal names and folk traditions: all important signs that survive today, linking us to the past.

**STAGES OF REALISATION**

**Teaching part**

- *Geography:* Historic, archaeological and geomorphological aspects of the Modena territory. Study of historic cartography. Production of a map of Longobard and Byzantine settlements.
- *History:* The Early Middle Ages: the Longobards in Italy. In-depth analysis of the history of the Longobards who settled in the Modena territory on the strip adjacent to the Byzantine territories. In-depth analysis of historiography, in particular reading the writings of Paul the Deacon, *Historia Langobardorum*.
- *Italian:* Reading novels and short essays linked to the theme.

**Educational outings:**

- Guided visit to the “Longobards” Exhibition in Pavia (19.10.2017).
- Guided visit to the Abbey at Nonantola (January 2018).
- Guided visit to the Museum and Treasury of Monza Cathedral and to the Chapel of Theodelinda (March 2018).
- Guided excursion in the countryside at San Giovanni in Persiceto, along a still accessible stretch of the “Small Cassia in the plain”, an old Roman road renovated by the Longobard king Aistulf, and therefore known to historians as the “Via Longobarda” (April 2018).

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Further study of the topic through the approach to fields not included among the subjects on the curriculum, with contributions from experts:

- Introduction to the historic cartography of the territory. Visit to the exhibition of antique cartography, “The never-ending story of the Via Emilia”, hosted in the Historic Archive in Modena on the occasion of the celebrations for the anniversary of the founding of the Roman town of Mutina and workshop activities under the guidance of Dott.ssa Milena Bertacchini from UniMoRE (17.11.2017).
- Approach to Linguistics and to ethno-philology with reflections on the presence of “intangible” evidence, such as dialect words, place names, personal names and folk traditions: lessons by Prof. Francesco Benozzo of Bologna University, (15.12.2017; February 2018).
- Introduction to the History of the Longobards in the border territory between Modena and Bologna, at that time the boundary between the Longobard Kingdom and the Exarchate,

with reflections on place names that refer to the names of Saints, lesson by Dott. Alberto Tampellini (March 2018).

- *Living history* experience organised by the Re-enactment Group *Bandum Freae*, winner with the Modena State Archive of the *Medieval Italy* National Award in 2016, 10 – 11 – 2017.

#### **EXPERIENTIAL PART**

The experiential part of the Project includes all the times in which the students become the direct protagonists of the study activity and thus give a tangible and personal expression of the knowledge they have acquired, their reflections, and the emotions aroused during the course.

The students' contributions may be in various forms:

Written: production of assignments on the study topics; presentation of the experience to the public; production of short films, photo reports, and so on. The Project will be concluded with a public event at the end of the year.