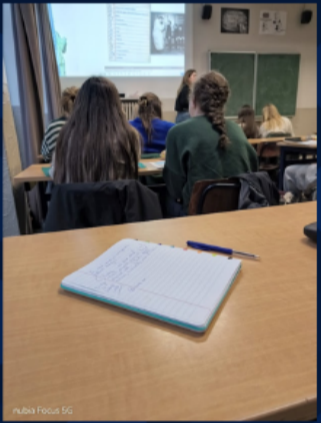


MY ERASMUS+ JOB SHADOWING JOURNEY IN GHENT BY MARIA BOTONAKI



GOING TO GHENT, BELGIUM

In February 2026, I had the opportunity to represent our school during an Erasmus+ mobility in Ghent, Belgium. More than a professional visit, it was an immersive experience in a city renowned for its stunning medieval architecture and Gothic heritage. Walking through cobble streets lined with historic guild houses, soaring church spires, and picturesque canals felt like stepping back in time. Ghent's beautifully preserved medieval centre provided an inspiring setting for learning and cultural exchange, while its innovative approach to education demonstrated how centuries-old traditions can successfully coexist with modern pedagogical practices.



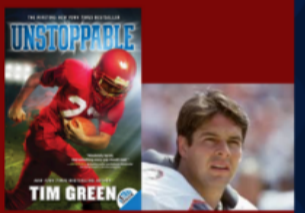
PARTICIPATING IN THE LIFE OF SINT-LIEVENSCOLLEGE

The heart of my mobility was spent at **Sint-Lievenscollege**, a high school that masterfully balances a rigorous academic curriculum with a welcoming, student-centered atmosphere. I was welcomed into a bustling community where hundreds of bicycles filled the school foyer, symbolizing the active, sustainable lifestyle of the Flemish. Through school tours and lesson observations, I observed a system characterized by high levels of digital integration and tradition education, where students utilized laptops and printed books to engage with interactive learning materials in every session.

GETTING INTRODUCED TO INNOVATIVE IDEAS

The most striking aspect of the Flemish system is the **"From Class to Life"** philosophy. The curriculum is intentionally designed to connect academic subjects to real-world issues. For instance, Biology lessons on contagious diseases are linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Ancient Greek myths are analyzed through the lens of modern social issues, such as the killing of Renée Nicole Good. I was particularly fascinated by the **"Teaching Thinking and AI"** class. I observed how AI voice cloning is used in diverse fields—from recreating the voice of historical figures like Francisco Franco for educational museum tours to assisting patients with ALS in regaining their ability to communicate. This interdisciplinary approach ensures that education remains relevant, critical, and deeply connected to contemporary societal challenges.

Teaching Thinking and AI Cloning Human Voice




Communication / Health:
Cloning the voice of people who suffer from ALS for the purposes of Communication

ADJUSTING NEW KNOWLEDGE IN AN EFL CLASS

Upon my return to Cyprus, I was eager to implement these "good practices" in my own English classes. I introduced the **"My English Twin"** activity for my C' Lyceum students. Using the Suno AI tool, students record themselves and then listen to an AI-cloned version of their own voice with perfected native pronunciation. This allows them to compare word stress, intonation, and rhythm in a way that is both personal and highly effective for improving fluency. Students were particularly motivated to get involved in this speaking activity and listen to the improved version of themselves as speakers, tracking their strengths and weaknesses in speaking and working on the latter to refine their fluency.

Adapting Voice Cloning in my class:
Speaking Practice
"My English Twin"
Activity



- 01 Student records a short text (dialogue, speech, or story excerpt) in English
- 02 AI generates the same text in the student's cloned voice with improved native pronunciation
- 03 Compare word stress, intonation, rhythm & pauses – then re-record to match the AI model

Effective Techniques for Teaching EFL/ESL Speaking Skills

