

FUNecole® School Network



# Case Studies



**FUNecole®**

EXCELLENCE DELIVERED



## Everything Starts With A Dream!

Digipro Computer Training Centre was established in Cyprus in 1990, offering computing lessons to students and professional development seminars to adults. Using the valuable real classroom experiences, Digipro's Research and Development team developed the FUNecole® curriculum. FUNecole® fosters the foundation of innovative ICT enhanced creative learning environments for developing computing and smart thinking skill sets, that inspire excellence in primary education.

## Motivated To Excel!

FUNecole® lessons enable Digipro students to use ICT with confidence, and acquire robust computing skills. As a result, 15-year-old students pass the Cambridge International GCE A Level Computing 9691 with A\* grades. Internationally, only 12% of students succeed to get A grades in this particular examination. According to the British Council official records in Cyprus, 80% of Digipro students get A grades in this A Level Computing subject. These amazing tangible results demonstrate that starting early with Computing/ICT lessons enables students to excel!



15-year old Zinonas Gianni was awarded the Cambridge Student Excellence Award for the GCE A Level Computing Exams by Dr John Guy the Senior Education Advisor of University of Cambridge in a special ceremony organised by British Council in Nicosia, Cyprus.



6-year old Maria-Eleni Christofi was awarded a Cambridge ICT Starters Certificate by Ann Gibson, the Cambridge Regional Manager for Europe in a special ceremony organised by British Council in Nicosia, Cyprus.

FUNecole® blends formal and informal learning and "breaks out" of the traditional classroom environment that separates disciplines. FUNecole® integrates computing, social, citizenship, smart thinking, entrepreneurial and philosophy skill development into real-world rigorous and relevant learning experiences for all students. FUNecole® lessons enable the transformation of primary education with these disruptive, ICT rich learning experiences, that foster global collaboration and social cohesion, while preparing students for new upcoming professions that are redefining the professional arena.

Chryso Christodoulou, FUNecole® Founder

**Imagination Is More Important Than Knowledge...**

Digipro started the development and usage of the FUNecole® curriculum 15 years ago. FUNecole® deployment by external schools started with [INSPIRE ICT](#) project (2008-2010). INSPIRE ICT was a Transfer of Innovation (TOI) European Funded project coordinated by Digipro that facilitated teachers' personal digital skills development, and promoted the usage of ICT in teaching and learning. Digipro with FUNecole®, is a partner on the [Open Discovery Space \(ODS\)](#) project. ODS is a large scale European Project (with total cost €15.32m) that aims to boost the adoption of eLearning resources in schools.

FUNecole® is adopted by European schools and is currently translated into 5 languages. Furthermore, Digipro's teacher development workshops are funded by Erasmus+ programme. Erasmus+ aims to support actions in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport, for the period 2014-2020. FUNecole® curriculum was evaluated by the Institute of Prospective Technological studies of Joint Research Centre of European Commission, as a best European practice in "Innovation and Creativity in Compulsory Education". FUNecole® is endorsed by Cambridge International Examinations for Cambridge ICT Starters Initial and Next Steps Qualifications.

Digipro's vision is to get FUNecole® incorporated in schools around the world!



Sample page from 6 year old student portfolio.



**A Transdisciplinary FUNecole® Lesson.**

**Light My Fire. The Power Of Love:**

This lesson is from the first Green Awareness Year. The aim of the lesson is to motivate 6-year-old students to share their feelings, knowledge and material things. Mr Attitude™ (the teacher) comes into class with a candle. Using his candle flame he lights the candles of Systematic™ and Click™ (the students). Mr Attitude's candle flame is still glowing as before, despite sharing it! After watching this video, all students participate in a class discussion. They answer questions like: "What does the flame represent?", "Is Mr Attitudes' flame diminished after sharing it?", "What are the results of having more beaming candles in the room?". Students, in groups, talk about sharing. Sharing is not about a loss or abandonment... sharing is about making someone happy... sharing a secret or a concern which might make one feel better. Students use ICT tools to present their thoughts, feelings and opinions. They produce small essays, stories, presentations, graphics and charts about the merits of sharing. Students are proud of their work. They print and paste it in their portfolios, and upload it to the FUNecole® Learning and Sharing website.



## A Microsoft Show Case School for 2014-2015



### About Grammar School

The Grammar School Nicosia is an international school with around 45 different nationalities of students. The school was founded in Nicosia Cyprus in 1963 and follows the British curriculum. The Grammar School belongs to the exclusive group of 100 schools globally, that integrate successfully technology in teaching and learning and is a Microsoft Show Case School for 2014 -2015. Grammar school students develop a wide range of transferable skills appropriate for external examination courses and their future professional careers.

### Always Looking Ahead...The Grammar School Partners With FUNecole®

In 2014, the Grammar School introduced a New Computing/ICT subject from Primary Year 1 in accordance with the New National British Curriculum that introduces Computing as a foundation subject from Key Stage 1.

Facing this challenge, the Grammar school partners with FUNecole® a best European practice in compulsory education that integrates the development of Computing/ICT and 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking skills. FUNecole® curriculum materials and comprehensive teacher development workshops enable Grammar School teachers to develop successfully student's robust computing and smart skills from very young age.



A 6-year old student proudly presents her portfolio!

FUNecole® students exhibit proficiency in collaborative learning, problem solving, creative expression and innovative thinking. FUNecole® students integrate ICT tools in all their school subjects. They learn to use the Internet safely and intelligently and produce high quality work.

Tonia Galati  
Head of Computer Science and Technologies  
Professional Development

**Power Up Students**

FUNecole® activities empower students to organise, plan, display and execute projects alone or as part of a group. During these activities students reflect on existing knowledge and take different course of action while dealing with new problems. FUNecole® cartoons represent different personalities and learning styles and inspire student's personal involvement in FUN activities and games.

**Grammar School  
Vision:**  
Promote learning  
through  
technology.

<http://www.grammarschool.ac.cy/>



Students in  
FUNecole® class

FUNecole® comprehensive teacher materials is a safe heaven for every teacher. FUNecole® structured and comprehensive materials offer valuable teacher support for developing Computing and thinking skills whilst preparing students for Cambridge ICT Starters Qualifications (year 1 to year 6). Specifically, FUNecole® students develop skills using a range of applications including word processing, computer graphics, databases, spreadsheets, email, internet, presentations, video/animation, web authoring and basic computer programming. Students also consider wider issues such as internet safety and adapting their work to various audiences.



Maria Galati  
ICT Primary school teacher

## About Britannia

Britannia Language Centre, a private language school in Perm, Russia. Britannia teaches General and Business English to students and adults. Britannia is a leading language Cambridge ESOL Authorised Centre, with five subsidiary offices and over 2000 students. Britannia offers unique services that have proven their efficiency in the Russian educational market.

## Selecting FUNecole® European Best Practice: A Wise Decision!!!

Britannia School has been looking for an innovative ICT skill building program for children for some years now. When FUNecole® was introduced to our school, we felt immediately drawn to the idea of curriculum built around the development of social interaction, thinking skills, and ICT. FUNecole® gives students the opportunity to have an active role in the process of teaching and learning. Among the main features, which attracted us to FUNecole®, was from the point of view of its philosophy, FUNecole® has a solid methodological background that follows modern trends towards mobility and globalisation.

## Our Plans

With the help of FUNecole®, we plan to put our primary focus on rigorous teaching and learning, whilst educating students in a nurturing community, that prepare them to succeed at school and in life. Our collaboration with FUNecole® has just started, but Digipro has already proved to be a reliable partner. Digipro provides timely support and guidance and we are happy to recommend FUNecole® to any school or institution.

Natalia Emelianova, Britannia CEO

Natalia Emelianova  
Britannia CEO



## FUNecole® Student Activities.

All student activities cultivate ethical problem solving, self-reflexivity, creative imagination and enable the development of higher order smart thinking skills from knowledge comprehension and application, to knowledge analysis, synthesis, evaluation and sharing.

<http://www.britannia.perm.ru/>

Teacher professional development at Britannia led by FUNecole® founder Chryso Christodoulou



After using FUNecole® we became aware of and in tune with its creative and innovative philosophy. FUNecole® structured collection of support materials accompanied by 18 student portfolios and 4 online websites enables our teachers to develop computing and thinking skills that fully respond to the new educational needs of today's global students.

Olga Kartashova  
FUNecole® Teacher

*As an academic professional, it is a genuine pleasure for me to recommend FUNecole® to any school or institution.*

Anastasiya Smirnova  
FUNecole® Teacher

[View video](#)

*FUNecole® offers comprehensive initial training, ongoing teacher training and support. The lesson resources meet student's individual needs and interests .*

Daria Raskina  
FUNecole® School Coordinator

[View video](#)

### Teacher Experiences

The "FUNecole® Teacher Development™" website offers teachers access to comprehensive collection of:

1. Lesson presentations.
2. Delivery guides.
3. Creativity games.
4. Integrated lesson exercises.
5. Assessment guides.
6. Themed videos.
7. ICT presentations.
8. ICT development plans.
9. Cambridge ICT Starters sample tests.
10. Cambridge ICT Starters assessment.

[View video](#)

Lesson Presentations from  
Yellow Exporing Year



Lesson Presentations from  
Green Awareness Year



# Xenia Tsolaki Metaxa Private Institute

Limassol, Cyprus



Case Study 4

## Always Looking Ahead; Hence... FUNecole®

The XTMPI-FUNecole® implementation began with a small number of FUNecole® groups comprising existing students from language classes. The designated teachers undertook the initial teacher training courses, accounts were setup, portfolios were printed and delivered; the implementation was underway. After a very successful pilot year, XTMPI decided to continue with the implementation which resulted in doubling the students and FUNecole® groups. As Xenia stresses that "we are recording a significantly increased interest in the program and we are expecting it to further grow in the next few years", the FUNecole® team is more than ready to constantly support XTMPI in achieving their targets.

## The reasons behind selecting to use FUNecole®

### FUNecole® is...

- A new curriculum for primary education (K-6).
- Developing the 21<sup>st</sup> century skill set.
- Endorsed by Cambridge International Examinations.
- A "Best Practice" educational service awarded by IPTS, JRC of the European Commission.
- Offering comprehensive teacher training and support.

"Although I am not an ICT expert, I did realise that I need FUNecole® to take my school to the next level..."

Xenia Tsolaki Metaxa  
Founder, XTMPI

[View video](#)



Xenia Tsolaki Metaxa  
Founder, XTMPI

## With FUNecole® We Never Walk Alone! A Teacher's Side...

*Teacher development; all the way!*

FUNecole® effectively deals with teacher's worst fears.

New syllabuses, new subjects, new skills needed; that was the case with XTMPI where teachers received wide-ranging initial teacher training as well as interim annual training workshops. "Top!" was the rating awarded by them when asked to evaluate the courses.

*Comprehensive resources; check!*

A rich, complete and structured set of teaching resources is a rare weapon in the teacher's arsenal. FUNecole® includes everything from preparation, delivery to assessment; literally!

*Outstanding support; the way it should be!*

XTMPI teachers rated the support offered as "immediate", "excellent service", "politeness" whether pedagogical or technical.

<http://www.xtmppi.ac.cy/>



## Results; Their Own Words...

After four consequent implementation years, teachers from XTMPI report that "Students enjoy the lesson and look forward to it" as well as "[FUNecole® has kept the students interested and eager to learn](#)". There has been an overall positive increase in students' thinking, creativity, entrepreneurial, presentation and collaboration skills as well as an evident structured development of their ICT and computing skills. Mrs Metaxa, quotes that "...children become more goal oriented and less worried about creating perfect projects. Some of them are hesitant towards ICT but with the help of the program realise how they can use ICT tools to achieve their goals".



Students working in class

## Student Testimonials

"With FUNecole® I learn how to think and solve problems"  
Christos Metaxas  
FUNecole® Student, XTMPI  
Yellow Exploration Year (8 years old)

"I am learning how to ask the right questions in order to get the right answers!"

Nikoletta Simonidou  
FUNecole® Student, XTMPI  
Yellow Exploration Year (8 years old)



Eleni Yiannoudes,  
FUNecole® Teacher,  
XTMPI

[View video](#)

"It's all there, you have everything you need to prepare for a lesson, all that you need during the lesson including a presentation for each one and you even have the resources to evaluate the outcome of the lesson like student assessments. Don't forget the platform where you can find your students' work and communicate with both students and parents."

Eleni Yiannoudes,  
FUNecole® Teacher, XTMPI

## Parent Testimonials

"My child knows more than me. I want to join the FUNecole® classes!"  
Mrs Effie Fitikides  
FUNecole® Parent, XTMPI

"I am a doctor and I asked my daughter to help me with a PowerPoint presentation for a conference. She prepared it and did an amazing job! Nobody could have guessed that my daughter did all the work!"

Dr Margarita Savva  
FUNecole® Parent, XTMPI

# Starlet Education Center

Yerevan, Armenia



Case Study 5



"We have considered undertaking FUNecole® as a wise educational decision. Both students and parents find FUNecole® lessons attractive, fun and colourful. FUNecole® proven value for building ICT, communication and team building skills whilst boosting imagination individuality are extremely important for the 21<sup>st</sup> century learners."

Anna Arutchyan  
Founder, Starlet Education Center

Anna Arutchyan Founder Starlet Education Center with Chryso Christodoulou, FUNecole® Founder during the initial FUNecole® teacher development training

## **The FUNecole® Solution: Building Innovative, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills.**

In January 2011, Anna met FUNecole® founder, Chryso, at the "Women Driving Economic Growth" conference organised and founded by the US Department of State to facilitate the collaboration of women entrepreneurs. At the time Anna was looking to deploy a new Computing curriculum and recognised that FUNecole® was an excellent choice. The implementation of FUNecole® has been running very successfully for three consecutive years and has so far produced unparalleled and unmatched results. FUNecole® helped Starlet to establish its market differentiation by enabling the development of lifelong and autonomous learners.

## **In Search For Creative Ideas; How FUNecole® Works...**

FUNecole® class operates as a "consulting company". Starlet students are engaged in solving practical life problems and are encouraged to seek professionalism and excellence in achieving the educational objectives. FUNecole® lessons engage competition among classes to get "jobs" and enable students involvement in research activities. FUNecole® philosophy inspires students to keep "coming back but, at higher levels" over "The Six-Year Journey of Knowledge™".

FUNecole® students at Starlet education center.

[View video](#)





### Our FUNecole® Summer School Experiences In Cyprus

- FUNecole® tools enable Starlet and Digipro (Armenian and Greek) students to work together during the summer classes in Cyprus.
- During these classes students collaborated on joint projects and publish their work online.
- FUNecole® joint teacher development workshops enable Starlet and Digipro teachers to work together and exchange ideas on how to teach for and with ICT.

At times I find myself so much indulged during a FUNecole® lesson that I lose the notion of time. Everything from the material, structure and content is scrupulously arranged and planned for the benefit of students as the teachers."

Margarita Khachaturova  
FUNecole® Teacher,  
Starlet Education Center

<http://starlet.am/>

### Everything Has A Beginning!

FUNecole® joint classes with Starlet and Digipro students.



Visits to archeological sites in Paphos



Visits to other FUNecole® schools in Cyprus



Visits to the beach!

# FUNecole®

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## About FUNecole®

**FUNecole® Creative Learning Environment introduces a new, 21<sup>st</sup> century subject that supports Computing, ICT and Thinking Skills development in primary education.**

**FUNecole® is endorsed by Cambridge International Examinations for Cambridge ICT Starters Initial and Next Steps.**

**FUNecole® was evaluated as “Best Practice” and listed first in the report of “Innovation and Creativity in Education and Training in EU27 (ICEAC)”**

**Reported by: The Joint Research Centre-Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (JRC-IPTS) of European Commission in collaboration of with Directorate General (DG) Education and Culture, Directorate A, Unit A1 .**



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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
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