



Frankie Jaffe

Volunteer Coordinator  
for Chat Away

mfjaffe@bezeqint.net 050 564 4726

www.esra.org.il Charity no. 580037455 09 950 8371



Dr. Helen Osimo

Volunteer Coordinator  
ESRA's English Tutoring  
Program (ETP)  
Haifa

ד"ר. הלן אוסימו

רכזת מתנדבות  
"תוכנית ע.ז.ר.ה. באנגלית"  
חיפה

etp-haifa@esra.org.il 054-9980036

www.esra.org.il Charity no. 580037455 09 950 8371



Cathy Aron  
Project Coordinator

Tel: 09 950 8371 |  
052 8396149 |  
www.esra.org.il

# What is

## *Chat Away: Taking English out of the Classroom ?*

The program consists of 30-40 minute chats **on Zoom** on any suitable topic, between a native-English speaking volunteer and an Israeli school student, **after school hours**



# AIM of the PROGRAM

To enhance the **speaking** skills of students  
and providing the opportunity to **'take their  
English out of the classroom'**

# What do we mean by *Taking English out of the Classroom?*

- Minimal teacher involvement
  - No school syllabus
  - No homework
  - No exam preparation
- ..... natural spontaneous conversation

# Target Population



- **Middle and High school** students with **good** levels of English
- **Schools** – secular, orthodox and Arab;  
low socio-economic towns and villages

# Who are our TUTORS?

- Native speakers living in Israel, the UK and US
- Mostly Retirees
- Scholarship students
- No English teaching experience
- Zoom know-how ... we give tutorials



# Safeguarding

- Male tutors supply official background check
- Students register with signed parents' consent forms.
- Meeting outside zoom sessions is prohibited.
- Taking photographs without permission is prohibited.

# Guidance for Tutors



- We offer a tutorial on **‘Conversation Strategies’**  
**Getting the reluctant student to talk**  
**Error correction**  
**Vocabulary expansion**
- Tutors receive a list of **resource materials of recommended sites and topics** to stimulate chat.
- Coordinators are always available for any specific advice.

# How do you get started?



1. You are **matched** with a student and receive **full contact** details.
2. You receive a detailed list of **Do's and Don'ts**
3. You make the **first** contact by *whats/app*, SMS or telephone to arrange days and times convenient to you both.

### 3. Establish the **rules**

sessions are on zoom on a computer, with a camera  
regular session times

each one informs of cancelling or changing sessions  
in good time

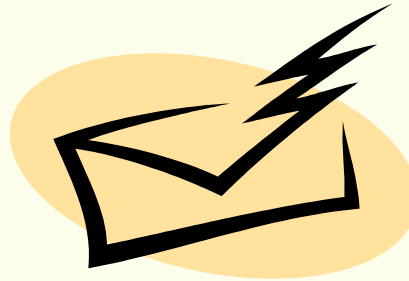
4. Very important: remind your student by whats/app the night before or the morning of your session.

5. **Keep a record** of your meetings in notebook or file (with dates and topics you discuss)

**6. Maintain regular updates** with your coordinator by *whats/app*



or email



materials

problems

unsuitability

enjoyment and rewards

# YOUR FIRST MEETING

- ‘Getting to know each other’
- My name is ... I come from ...
- Before I retired I was ...
- I am studying .....
- **But keep it brief**



Now tell me about **yourself** a little bit

**They may need prompting ...**

- Family, town, village, school
- favourite food, celebrities, sport ...
- hopes and ambitions ...

**..... these are the areas you are going to build on for future chats ...**

# Subsequent chats about ...

- Interests and hobbies
- How was your week?
- Finding out what you have in common
- A news item, a picture, a prepared topic



***Chat Away*** caters to all types of school children .....

some will be shy and lacking in confidence to speak;



some will speak all the time making lots of mistakes...



**The most important thing to remember is ....**

**...your student will be getting so much  
more individual talking time than s/he  
would ever get in class !**



**You will be very much appreciated!**

# End of year summary - June 2023

**250** volunteer/student pairs in **90** schools

Including those from the UK and US

And dozens of positive feedback messages, emails and phone calls from volunteers, teachers, students and their parents

# Looking ahead



- Israeli students graduate with good English matriculation grades but are behind their European counterparts in **speaking**.
- Our vision is that **Chat Away** will become **part of the school curriculum**
- By joining us in this venture, **you** are helping us to achieve this goal.

# What can *Chat Away* offer you?

- An opportunity to connect to Israel in a **new way**.
- The possibility of **getting to know Israeli youth** and what makes them tick.
- The chance to **make a difference** to a young person who, otherwise, could never afford such individual attention.



**ESRA**   
volunteering together  
for the community  
מתנדבים ביחד  
למען הקהילה



Thank  
you