

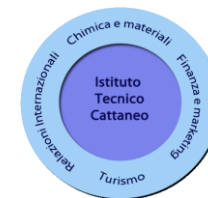


ISTITUTO TECNICO COMMERCIALE "C.CATTANEO"

San Miniato (Pisa)
Italy



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Our School and its Courses

The name of our school is I.T.C. (Istituto Tecnico Commerciale) "Carlo Cattaneo" and was opened in 1963. It is a technical secondary school and there are three courses: the **I.T.I.** ("Istituto Tecnico Industriale") course, the "**E.R.I.C.A.**" course and the "**Ragioneria**" course.

The students who attend the "**Ragioneria**" course specialize in accountancy.

They study Italian, History, Geography, English, French or German, Mathematics, Science, Economics, Law, Computer Science, Physical Education and Religious Education.



The students who attend the "**E.R.I.C.A.**" course specialize in languages. They study English, French, German, Italian, History, Geography, Science, Computer Science, Maths, Economics for Tourism, Physical Education, Art and Religious Education.

The students who attend the **I.T.I.** course specialize in Chemistry. They study Italian, Geography, English, Economics, Law, History, Physics, Science, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, General Chemistry, Leather Technology, Design and Technology, Physical Education and Religious Education.



The Italian Education System

In Italy education is compulsory from the age of 5/6 to the age of 16. Students attend nursery school from the age of 3 to the age of 5 and they attend primary school from the age of 5/6 to the age of 11. They attend junior high school from the age of 11 to the age of 14. They start attending senior high school at the age of 14. They usually leave it at the age of 18/19. After senior high school they can go to university or look for a job.



The main school examinations are junior high school exam and senior high school exam. Students get a junior high school diploma at the age of 11 and a senior high school diploma at the age of 18/19. In Italy school starts in September and finishes in June. Students have holidays at Christmas, at Easter and in summer.

School usually starts at 8.00 a.m. and finishes at 1.30 p.m. Saturday is not free. In Italian schools the students who are in the same class have all the lessons together. The teachers move from class to class.



Next to this lab there is the **A.V. (audio-visual) room**. It is used by all teachers to watch DVDs and other work from a laptop computer.

On this floor there are other **classrooms** , our **lab assistant 's office**, another **language lab** and two **Chemistry labs**.

The first Chemistry Lab is used by the first and second year- students and the second one is very well- equipped and it is used by the senior students who specialize in Chemistry. This is especially important in the I.T.I course, where students study leather tanning technology .

The **atrium** is used for various activities: class tests, drama activities and music rehearsals for the Christmas and end of year school concert. From the atrium we can go downstairs to the **school auditorium**. It is quite new and has a lovely wooden floor. It is used for school assemblies, concerts and drama plays.



Last year a school reform was passed by the Government and now in our school there are four courses: "**Amministrazione, Finanza and Marketing**" (**Administration, Finance and Marketing**), "**Relazioni Internazionali per il Marketing**" (**International Relations for Marketing**), "**Turismo**" (**Tourism**) and "**Chimica e Materiali**" (**Chemistry and Materials**). The students of the first-year and second-year classes attend these courses . The students who attend the "**Amministrazione, Finanza and Marketing** " course study Italian, History, Geography, English, French or German, Mathematics, Economics, Political Economics, Law, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Physical Education and Religious Education.

The students who attend the "**Relazioni Internazionali per il Marketing**" course study Italian, History, Geography, English, French or German, Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Economics, Law, International Relations, Computer Science, Physical Education and Religious Education.

The students who attend the "**Turismo**" course study English, French, German, Italian, History, Science, Computer Science, Maths, Economics for Tourism, Geography for Tourism, Law and Legislation for Tourism, Art, Physical Education and Religious Education.

The students who attend the "**Chimica e Materiali**" course study Italian, Geography, English, Economics, Law, History, Physics, Science, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, General Chemistry, Leather Technology, Design and Technology, Computer Science, Physical Education and Religious Education.

Extra Curricular Activities

Our school takes part in **Cultural Exchanges** with other schools from Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands. Exchanges usually last from seven to ten days. Students are hosted by families and are fully immersed in the local language. Exchanges are a great way to learn about new cultures and see new places and cities in Europe.



EXCHANGE WITH THE NETHERLANDS



EXCHANGE WITH GERMANY



EXCHANGE WITH FRANCE



EXCHANGE WITH DENMARK

Work Experience in London

- Each year twelve students from the 4th classes have the opportunity to work in **London** during the summer months. This **work experience** period is funded by our local bank " La Fondazione della Cassa di Risparmio di San Miniato". A work agency in London helps



Students have all their lessons here except for physical education. For **P.E.** we catch a bus in front of the school which takes us to a **Gym (Palazzetto dello Sport "Fontevivo"** in San Miniato Basso.



On this floor there is also the **Staff Room**. Teachers



keep their books and registers in the orange lockers. Staff meetings and other conferences are held in this room.

You can find vending machines in front of this room. They sell hot drinks and fresh sandwiches every day. Adjacent to these machines there is the

Photocopying Room, where the janitors prepare photocopies for the teachers.

Near the staff room there is a **Technical Drawing and Design Room** and it is



used by the I.T.I students.

On the top floor there is a spacious **balcony** with a beautiful view of San Miniato and the surrounding countryside. In spring we sometimes have our lessons here or do other activities, such as music and drama.

All our laboratories are on the lower-ground floor.

We go to the **Language Laboratory** with our English, French and German language teachers. It is a multimedia lab with thirty computers. We watch DVDs, listen to CDs and do listening activities here.

On this floor there is also the **Science and Physics Laboratory** used by the first and second year - students to carry out experiments using microscopes . Students from all three courses come here with their teachers to do their research and work on projects. On the same floor there are the **Computer Labs**. Students from all three courses come here with their teachers to do their research and work on projects. They are also used by the students who attend the E.C.D.L. (European Computer Driving Licence) course, which is held in the afternoons.



The Comenius Project

Our school is also involved in the **Comenius Project** which encourages cultural exchanges between students from different nationalities.



The Comenius Project M.I.A.

Some Finnish students studied at our school for four months last year. They were hosted by local families and took part in every day school activities. Some Italian students are studying at the Finnish school for three months this year.



Some Italian students with Taru, the Finnish student.

Afternoon Courses

Our school is also very active in preparing students for external exams. Students who choose to attend these activities stay at school in the afternoons. The most popular courses are for:

- the **PET** exam (an English exam prepared by the University of Cambridge).



- the **DELF** exam (a French language exam recognized by the French Ministry of Education)

- the **FIT1** and **FIT2** German language exam prepared by the Goethe institute.



- **SPANISH COURSES** taught by a native Spanish speaker.

- **The European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)**. There are seven modules and students learn how to use different computer programmes and applications.



Description of our School

In our school there are about 500 students and twenty-eight classes. It has three floors: the lower-ground, ground and first floor.



As soon as you enter the school you can see the **foyer**. We often use this space to display students' art work. We have also had a photographic and art exhibition here.



At the back of the foyer there is the **School Library**. It has about 4.700 books which we can borrow. On the ground floor there are eleven **classrooms**. Each class has its own classroom and it is the teachers who go from class to class.

On the same floor there are the **Administrative Offices**, the **Headmaster's Room** and the **Deputy Headmaster's Room**. The office with glass windows is for the janitors who answer the telephone and give parents information about timetables and teachers. On the first floor there are sixteen **classrooms**.



The Headmaster
Salvatore Caruso

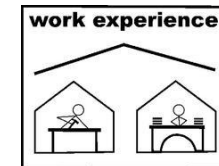


our students to find accommodation and a temporary job for two months. When students return, they are always enthusiastic about their stay in this beautiful city and of course, after a full immersion of English, their language skills have improved a lot.



Work Experience

Each year the 4th and 5th- year students in all three courses take part in our **Work Experience Programme**. Either during the school year or the summer months, our students go for two weeks to work places in our local area. The type of job they do depends on their school course. Students have been to work in local businesses, the taxation office, surveyors' offices, leather tanneries, travel agencies, holiday farms and even chemical laboratories used in the tanning industry.



The University of Northampton

Another opportunity that our school offers is the chance to study at the **University of Northampton** in Great Britain. Thanks to a bilateral agreement, students in 4th year of the I.T.I course can go and study Leather Technology in Northampton and students from all courses can attend this University once they have their high school diploma

