

# Face to Faith with Gems

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On 30 May 2012, our school was involved in a program called Face to Faith. It is a program where we do a video conference with different people from different culture, religion, and background to share information about our faith and beliefs.

The school in which we did the video conference with was a school from Dubai called Gems World Academy. There were a

total of 24 students from their school that joined the video conference, while there were 17 students from our school.

Before the video conference started, we prepared questions, answers, and introductions that we wrote on a paper. Ms. Saara, our English teacher, also gave us a prep talk about how we should relax and speak with a clear voice when the video conference begins.

The blank screen went to life and I could see the students from the other school, and also Ian Jamison, who is the facilitator and the trainer for the current video conference. He told us the rules that were needed to be followed during the video conference, such as raising your hand before questioning or answering, and mentioning your name and age before you start to speak.

The first question that the students from Gems asked us was about the school activities in our school that are related to our culture or religion. In return, we asked them about the way they live their school life, surrounded by people from different religion or nationality.

Then, a student from our school, Nisa, prepared a presentation that contains detailed information about our school. The presentation was very nice and she delivered it excellently.

The next thing we did was discussing about empathy. We were asked to choose two or three representatives from each school to explain about what their school does to encourage their students to feel empathy, and how do they feel about it. We told each other about our charity

programs and our feelings about why those activity/actions were necessary to encourage our empathy.

There were a few more rounds of asking and answering before we were told to have three or four representatives to make a conclusion about this video conference and say our goodbyes and thanks.

It was very fun for me to experience it. I learned about many interesting things about them. Because, of course, the way things work in their school is completely different than ours. It also made me very happy to see that completely different people can bond together by that video conference.

It was such a rare opportunity for me to learn and completely understand about their beliefs and faith from their point of view. It made me realize that differences are supposed to be used as an opportunity for us to expand our knowledge. I am looking forward to the next video conference.