

**Thousands of tablets
given to schools to help
students learn
Portuguese as part of
Camões UK's new
digitisation programme**



Image courtesy of Camões I.P.

- More than 2,000 Microsoft Surface Go tablets have been distributed to students in primary and secondary schools so far and 22,000 students set to benefit globally
- The project aims to unlock a host of content, tools, services, digital platforms, and equipment to encourage innovative teaching and learning methods for Portuguese
- Schools can sign up to the programme by contacting Camões UK

LONDON: 16 October 2023 – Students across the UK and Channel Islands are set to benefit from Camões UK's new digitisation project. Camões UK – part of Camões I.P the Portuguese international organisation for cooperation and for the promotion of Portuguese language and culture – has provided Portuguese language lessons in UK schools for nearly 50 years.

Funded through the NextGenerationEU recovery scheme, the project aims to establish a comprehensive digital education system encompassing content, tools, services, digital platforms, and equipment, as well as encouraging innovative teaching and learning methods for Portuguese. With 2,000 Microsoft Surface Go tablets and digital software already donated to teachers and pupils, the project will provide teachers the essential tools for engaging with the Portuguese language and culture. The project will unlock new digital resources including the Ler em Rede platform which offers self-paced educational materials to help improve students' reading proficiency and overall comprehension skills.

The digitisation project is a global initiative which is set to help approximately 22,000 students enrolled in Camões I.P.'s extracurricular courses across Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Camões I.P. has invested a total of 18.9 million euros in this project. This programme is an extension of Camões I.P.'s mission to provide educational resources for all age groups, as well as connecting schools with Portuguese-speaking people, culture, history and literature. Camões UK

offers different models of teaching and support depending on the needs of the institutions and students – from introducing Portuguese to early years pupils to supporting A Level students through their exams.

Cátia Verguete, Director Camões UK said: *“Since the 1970s, Camões UK has worked closely with schools and Portuguese communities to help students learn Portuguese and find out more about Portuguese culture. Throughout the years we have embraced new developments in language teaching and are delighted to be able to extend this digitisation project to schools in the UK and Channel Islands.”*

Mrs. Dawn Persad, Headteacher at Henry Fawcett Primary School said: *“The programme is hugely beneficial to all our pupils. The Camões teachers are knowledgeable, enthusiastic and passionate about children’s learning. Whenever a Portuguese lesson is in progress all the children are smiling and totally involved. Portuguese speaking pupils feel proud and confident having their home language taught and being able to help in lessons as mini teachers. It also positively influences behavior for learning other subjects. The Portuguese families’ relationship with the school has improved significantly.”*

Camões UK currently provides fully qualified Portuguese teachers to deliver language programmes in more than 60 schools across the UK and Channel Islands. To support schools to deliver Portuguese lessons to students, Camões UK runs the Rede de Ensino Português no Estrangeiro network. The network provides free resources to primary and secondary schools.

To sign up for Camões UK’s digitisation programme or to find out more about bringing Portuguese to your school please contact Camões UK: info@e-portuguese.co.uk

- ENDS -

For further information please contact:

Lizzie Hubbard

lizzie.hubbard@flint-culture.com

Rebecca Bradfield

rebecca.bradfield@flint-culture.com

About Camões I.P.

Camões - Institute of Cooperation and Language, I.P. is a public institute supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs whose mission is to propose and implement the Portuguese cooperation policy and the policy for teaching and disseminating the Portuguese language and culture abroad. Camões are the leading specialists in Portuguese language teaching and learning, providing pedagogical resources for all age groups, and meaningful connections to the Lusophone world.

With an aim to promote the Portuguese language and culture, and enhance inter linguistic and intercultural understanding, through diplomacy, dialogue and cultural exchange between the Anglophone and Portuguese-speaking worlds, Camões I.P. have worked with over 5,000 students and 45 teachers across 50 schools and universities in the UK and Channel Islands.