



The Gold Award for Languages

*How could this
work in my school?*

**Routes into Languages
Yorkshire and the Humber**

HOW COULD THIS WORK IN MY SCHOOL?

The Award is flexible, so that teachers can use it to suit their own needs.

Teachers in different schools have employed it in the following ways:

- Integration into existing syllabuses, such as A level project work
- A class challenge, as an enrichment activity
- A structured activity for “Languages Club”
- A way to stretch gifted and talented students
- An opportunity for students whose first language is not English to develop skills and to celebrate their own language and culture

Teachers are free to determine the level of the activities, the difficulty of the challenges and the quality of work produced, as long as the basic requirements of the award are met.

So, schools using this as the basis for assessed project work will need to ensure that challenges meet the requirements of the syllabus. The standard of work produced in this case will differ considerably from schools wishing to add some interest to an existing work experience programme, or who want to see improvements in the level of the target language.

This variation and choice for schools is a key benefit of the award and allows schools to use it with different year groups and ability levels. The intention is to allow students to explore where languages can take them personally, rather than to impose rigid external standards.

Teachers will determine which students have completed the challenges to an adequate standard and deserve a certificate from Routes. Teachers should exercise some judgement here, so that only students who have put in the effort are rewarded and that the award is therefore something for these students to be proud of.

WITH WHICH YEAR GROUPS DOES THE AWARD WORK BEST?

The award was originally designed for pupils in Years 10-11, to fit around existing work experience programmes.

Teachers have also used it successfully with advanced Year 9 linguists, whilst others have set more demanding standards for the challenges and used it with sixth form classes.

WHEN DOES IT BEGIN?

Students can start working on the award at any point in the year and can complete the challenges in any order.

It is envisaged that it would realistically take most of a school year to plan and complete the challenges to a high standard, i.e. one challenge per term.

However, there is nothing to stop enthusiastic pupils from doing more than one challenge at a time and completing the award more quickly. Children who already have contacts who can help them to arrange venues for the challenges will also find the process quicker.

Equally, some schools have encouraged pupils to do one or more challenges during school holidays, including the summer break.