

## Message from Dr Sharon Handley Consortium Director

This year the North West Consortium has gone from strength to strength and is having a real impact in the region. We have worked with around 8,000 pupils from 162 different schools and have provided almost 30,000 hours of support in schools through student ambassadors and language events in schools. We continued to run our Language Enrichment Events at each of the partner universities and feedback from pupils and teachers has shown that they are having a significant impact in terms of encouraging pupils to continue to study a language. Some schools have experienced a substantial increase in the number of students taking a language at GCSE and have indicated that our Language Enrichment Events have played a role in this. We are pleased to see that our work is reaping results!

We have attracted a lot of Media coverage this year, with appearances on Sky TV, seven appearances by members of the COLT team on local radio and substantial coverage in the local press, particularly in relation to our attempts to establish whether there is sufficient demand in Urdu to justify developing degree level provision in Urdu.

We are delighted to be able to say that COLT has procured funding to be able to continue until the end of March next year giving us time to develop our ambitious programme further and we are now working to ensure that this momentum is maintained even after the life-time of the COLT project.



## New for 2010/11: National Spelling Bee

To be launched officially on the European Day for Languages, this new competition is the perfect way to enthuse new language learners.

Following the success of a regional Spelling Bee run by Routes East, this competition will be rolled out nationally for 2010-11. The National Spelling Bee is for Year 7 pupils studying French, Spanish and German. This is the perfect way to get your new students interested in language learning, and to help them learn vital vocabulary.

All schools are invited to participate and will hold the first round of the competition in their school in the Autumn term. Four finalists from each school will then be invited to a Regional Final in March, hosted by Routes into Languages North West.. All the Routes consortia will be organising regional competitions across the country, with all the winners coming together for a National final in Cambridge in July 2011.

If you would like to take part please download a registration form from our website:  
<http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/northwest/events.html>

# Highlights of 2009-10

## Hat-trick of Awards for Routes North West

### European Award for Languages 2010

We were delighted to be awarded a European Award for Languages for our Community Language Teacher Training course. Designed to support Complementary School teachers, who do not have qualified teacher status, this successful project has trained around 200 teachers of Arabic, Urdu and Mandarin. The project is now due to be rolled out by Links into Languages, the sister organisation of Routes, in the North West, North East and East Midlands.



The Routes NW team went to the Emirates Stadium in London to collect the prestigious award.



From left to right: Majda Al-Liabi, Yosra Aqil (Arabic Trainers), Sharon Handley, Ameeta Richardson (Routes NW), Saeed Varachhia (Urdu Trainer).

### Language and Film Talent Awards (LAFTAs)

The LAFTAs, organised by CiLT, were held in London in July at a glitzy ceremony at the British Film Institute. We were thrilled when the North West clip, Bacon Butty, won the World Languages category. The clip, produced by a group of students from Cumbria University, was praised for its high quality and the message that it is not cool to be monolingual. You can view this clip (number 21) and the other entries at: <http://www.languageswork.org.uk/laftas>



Winning filmmaker, Michael Morgan Bain.

### National Award for Heritage Languages

We are pleased to announce that Abrar Aqil, a pupil from Al Hijra Supplementary School, won the joint silver award in the Community Languages category. Her award was presented at the 'Language Stars' award ceremony, which took place alongside the LAFTAs. Al Hijra Supplementary School is one of our partner schools, so we are very pleased for Abrar. This award is further evidence of the COLT Project's success in raising the profile of world languages and building bridges with complementary schools!

Abrar Aqil collects her award at the Language Stars Awards Ceremony.



### Activities and Events

2009-2010 was an extremely busy year, with the COLT Project running five extra Language Enrichment Events (LEEs) in the Winter, as well as the usual five in the Summer. We also held a Careers with Languages evening, a Sixth Form day for Urdu and Arabic students, and an Italian Celebration Day. In addition we held a very successful conference for those interested in the teaching and learning of community languages. We also had a partnership with the Cornerhouse cinema, where community language films were shown for the first time in their Projector study sessions. On top of all the events, we provided numerous Student Ambassadors and tutors to support North West schools with talks, taster sessions, language clubs and cultural activities.



# Language Enrichment Events: increasing take-up of language GCSEs by 23%

For the past three years we have been running Language Enrichment Events (LEEs) for KS3 pupils. The day starts with a presentation about the benefits of learning languages, and includes



language tasters in less widely taught languages, such as Urdu and Italian. Pupils also sample cultural activities, such as Arabic dancing and Chinese water painting.

**The events are incredibly popular, with 97% of pupils saying they enjoyed attending and more importantly 88% saying their views about languages improved after attending the event.**

To evaluate the work that we carry out, our Researcher implemented questionnaires to pupils before and after our Language Enrichment Events and again after they had made their GCSE options. The results were staggering.

**Only 47% of pupils wanted to do a language GCSE before the events, but after attending a LEE 70% opted for languages at KS4.**

## What the pupils think...

*"The day was extremely fun. It introduced me to languages I had never tried and now I am thinking about taking up other languages because they are fun and will help me later in life,"*

(Pupil from Ulverston Victoria High School)

*"Experiencing a brand new Language was great! It has made me feel more confident that there are no limits to what I can achieve if I can have a full conversation in two Languages I had never spoken before. This event has really made me aware of just how important Languages are".*

(Pupil from Lowton High School)

## What the teachers think...

*"The events have formed a significant part in increasing GCSE uptake from eight pupils in 2009-10 to 43 in 2010-11. The role that Routes into Languages plays in supporting high schools in the North West is paramount".*  
(Paul Almeida, Head of Languages, Werneth School).

*"All students really enjoyed the day and we feel it is important for students to learn about the value of languages from people outside school".* (Language Teacher, St Christopher's CE High School)



Year 8 pupils at our Language Enrichment Event

## Winners! Winter iPod Competition

After the Winter LEEs, we ran a competition asking pupils to submit a picture and written account of their experience at our events. There were over 25 entries from 10 different schools and we were very impressed by the insightful accounts of the events and creative entries. The winner was Patrick Mitchell, who won an iPod touch. Runners up, Ellie Tallon and Paige Humphries won iPod shuffles.

The winning entries can be viewed on our website at: <http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/northwest/news/1686>

## Why study languages? Website launch

Routes into Languages has created a website to promote languages to KS3, KS4 and Post-16 pupils. It has been written by teachers and undergraduate students, and contains a wealth of shocking facts, videos, quizzes, exam and course work tips. The aims of the site are to promote language learning to all; to encourage the take up of GCSEs and A levels; to address difficult transition points and to help teachers make the case for languages to head teachers and parents.

Visit the website to learn more:

[www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk](http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk)

# What can Routes North West can do for you?

## Talks and Taster Sessions in Schools

We have a team of trained Student Ambassadors, who have CRB checks, and can come into your school to deliver a 'Why Study Languages' presentation. This year there will be a small fee of £30 for each visit, in order to cover our costs. If you would like to book a talk, please email us with the details at: [routes@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:routes@mmu.ac.uk)



## Language Tasters and Cultural Sessions

If you are holding events within your school and would like to add an international dimension, through a language taster or cultural activity, we can help. We have a database of contacts who could provide tasters in a whole host of languages or deliver workshops, such as Chinese painting or Italian cookery. We would be happy to put you in touch with these contacts.



## Film Revision Sessions

Routes NW are delighted to be continuing with the Community Languages Projector project in partnership with the Cornerhouse cinema. We will be running GCSE study sessions in Arabic, Urdu and Mandarin Chinese. The Projector sessions involve a viewing of a famous film in the target language before undertaking activities based around the film and language. This project not only helps pupils to revise their language skills with curriculum based language activities, it gives them an invaluable insight to cultural aspects and the film industry of the country. We will also be running an INSET session for Language Teachers. To find out more about this project please visit: [www.cornerhouse.org/projector](http://www.cornerhouse.org/projector)

## I love languages...do you? activity pack

The new I love languages...do you? activity pack is now available to Order. The aim of this activity pack is to provide teachers with a choice of materials that will introduce pupils to a wide range of languages including some with which they may not be familiar. The packs contain resources in 22 languages and includes an A2 poster, 48 stickers, 22 postcards, 30 pin badges and worksheets. The first 500 orders will also receive a free 'Why study languages' classroom poster! Order yours now via the Routes into Languages website: [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/love](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/love)

# Calendar of Events

Routes North West are delighted to have secured continuation funding until 31st March 2011. We plan to pack in as much activity as we can in the extra seven months. As well as the ever popular LEEs, we are also offering events for KS4 and A Level students.

## Film and Languages INSET Session

Organised in conjunction with the Cornerhouse, Links into Languages and the ALL.  
MMU: Saturday 16th October 2010

## Language Enrichment Events (Year 8/9)

University of Manchester: 1st November 2010  
MMU: 5th January 2011  
UCLAN: 12th January 2011  
University of Salford: 28th January 2011  
University of Bolton: T.B.C.

## NEW! - FACE Languages (Year 10/11) (Film And Culture Event)

This brand new event will help inform GCSE students about studying languages at A Level and beyond, with tasters of new languages and a session on learning language through film. Hosted by the University of Manchester on Thursday 4th November 2010

## Community Languages Sixth Form Day

Designed for AS and A2 students studying towards their Arabic, Urdu, Mandarin Chinese, or Italian exams. Students will have revision sessions and a practical talk from an Edexcel Examiner about how to succeed in their exams.  
MMU: Saturday 19th March 2011

## NEW! - National Spelling Bee (Year 7)

Regional Spelling Bee-MMU: 16th March 2011  
National Spelling Bee-Cambridge: 6th July 2011

## NEW! - Teachers' Symposium: Life After Routes

A practical session for language teachers to look at creative ways to motivate language students, using existing ideas and resources.  
MMU: 22nd March 2011

For details of all our events, and to book your places, please visit:

[www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/northwest/events.html](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/northwest/events.html)