

## Highlights of 07/08

### COLT Launch

The Routes into Languages North West project was launched officially on May 8th 2008 in the Capitol Theatre, Manchester Metropolitan University.

MMU Vice Chancellor Professor John Brooks opened proceedings and gave a warm welcome to the collection of mainstream and supplementary school teachers, city councillors, consulate personnel, students, consortia affiliates and members of the northwest community. He was followed by the night's keynote speaker, Manchester's former Lord Mayor and Councillor for

Cheetham, Mohammed Afzal Khan, who spoke passionately about the need to promote community languages.

The evening's entertainment was provided by two local supplementary schools. The Huaxia Chinese School dazzled the audience with their interpretation of the Monkey King legend followed by a traditional Chinese fan dance. The Hijra Arabic School then impressed with their Arabian fashion show, displaying some fine examples of traditional outfits worn in the Arabic-speaking world.



## Welcome from Dr Sharon Handley

### Consortium Director

COLT got off to an excellent start last year, and we are keen to build upon the enthusiasm shown by pupils who attended our events by developing opportunities for them to continue studying Arabic, Chinese, Italian and Urdu.

Parents and pupils who were interviewed by us last year have signalled that they would like to see greater linkage between supplementary and mainstream schools and we believe that by working together we can make this happen.



If you are a mainstream school and would like to set up an after-school club in Urdu, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic or Italian for local pupils, please let us know. We would also like to know whether any schools would consider leasing premises to a supplementary school in the evenings or at weekends. We believe this could be mutually beneficial, particularly if a school is interested in running classes in the language taught at the supplementary school. Equally, if you are involved with a supplementary school which needs premises from which to operate, please get in touch.

If you are interested in getting involved with any of our initiatives, please let us know. We are very keen to have you on board as we move into the second stage of this exciting journey!

# Language Enrichment Events

Designed to encourage secondary school pupils to continue studying languages, the Language Enrichment Events turned out to be more popular than we could ever have imagined.

Five events were staged in June and July, attracting a total of 1000 Year 8 pupils from across the region.



'definitely' changed after coming to the event.



Each event began with a talk, *Why study Languages*, calling on pupils to think about the positive aspects of learning a new language. Pupils then went on to experience language taster sessions in Arabic, Chinese, Urdu or Italian.

The most popular part of the day was the *Multi-Cultural Market*, a collection of stalls and activities hosted by local organisations and university language students. Pupils participated in Chinese Tai Chi demonstrations, made Italian masks, tried on Pakistani clothing, created henna designs, practised their chopstick ability and much more.

Feedback from the events proved them to be a huge success, with over 90% of pupils saying they thought it was 'great' or 'quite good.' Thirty-four percent said their opinion of language learning had

## Teacher Training

In the summer term, we launched our Teacher Training Courses for Teachers of Arabic, Mandarin Chinese and Urdu.

These courses include two training days in teaching methodology at the Institute of Education, MMU; a visit to a partner school to observe MFL teaching in action; and an observation visit by our teacher trainers to course participants in their own schools.

The preliminary courses are still ongoing, but feedback from the first training day in July was very good, and we will be offering further courses in 08/09.



# What's new for 08/09?

## Events for Schools

This year we will develop and broaden our portfolio of events for schools to include **A-Level Days** for pupils studying Arabic, Italian, Mandarin Chinese and Urdu at AS and A2. These will be practical events, aimed at boosting the skills of A Level pupils. Students will attend two language sessions and a talk by an A Level examiner with practical tips for exam success. They will talk to our university student ambassadors about pathways into further language study and life at university.

In addition, we will offer another series of our highly successful **Language Enrichment Events** for Year 8/9 pupils.

## COLT Student Ambassadors

COLT student ambassadors are undergraduate and postgraduate students at one of our partner universities, who either speak a COLT language as their mother tongue or are studying one of these languages at university.



Student ambassadors are fantastic motivators for school pupils, inspiring them in their language study. Last year, our ambassadors worked at the

COLT Language Enrichment Events, where school pupils enjoyed chatting to them about their languages and cultures, as well as life at university.

This year, the role of student ambassador will be extended, and from January 09 it is hoped that student mentors will go into supplementary and mainstream schools to support the teaching and learning of community languages and act as role models for pupils.

If you would like to find out more about how you can use our student ambassadors in your school, please contact us.



## Talks in Schools

If you are organising a languages event for pupils in your school or area, or simply want someone to deliver a talk on the benefits of studying languages, let us know. COLT student ambassadors or a member of our team may be able to deliver a short talk for you, or even teach a short taster session in a new language.

## Language Clubs

If you are hoping to set up a language club in a community or lesser-taught language for pupils at your school, or a group of schools in your area, it may be that we can help you to organise this or put you in touch with teachers in these languages.

## Database of Oral Assessors

As part of our project we are setting up a database of oral assessors for GCSE/AS/A2/Asset exams.

If you have pupils in your school who speak a community or less-widely taught language and wish to gain a qualification in this language, but you do not have staff who are able to conduct oral assessments, we may be able to put you in touch with local teachers qualified to do this.

Additionally, if you are a native speaker or a teacher of one of these languages, and wish to gain training on conducting oral assessments, we will be organising an event for this in summer 09. Further details will be available nearer the time.

## Teachers' Symposium

Are you interested in finding out more about how COLT can help support you in the teaching and learning of community and lesser-taught languages?

Would you like to meet other teachers in the North West teaching these languages? This year we will be organising a Teachers' Symposium, which will give language teachers the chance to meet, discuss ideas, and develop a much-needed network of tutors teaching community and lesser-taught languages. Let us know if you are interested in getting involved.



## Forthcoming Events

### Italian A Level Day

Wednesday 5th November 08  
Manchester Metropolitan University

### Urdu A Level Day

Thursday 6th November 08  
University of Manchester

### Arabic A Level Day

Friday 30th January 09  
University of Salford

### Mandarin Chinese A Level Day

Thursday 21st May 09  
University of Central Lancashire

### Language Enrichment Events for Year 8/9 pupils

Manchester University: Friday 9th January 09  
MMU: Tuesday 9th June 09  
University of Bolton: Thursday 11th June 09

UCLAN: Wednesday 17th June 09

University of Salford: Wednesday 8th July 09

## Other events supported by COLT

### Languages Now! for Year 9 pupils

Wednesday 7th January 09  
Organised by the North West University Language Alliance (NWULA) and to be held at Liverpool John Moores University

### Italian Day

Tuesday 10th February 09  
Manchester Metropolitan University

### Mother Tongue Celebration Event

Thursday 12th February 09  
University of Manchester

Full details of all of our activities are available on [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/northwest](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/northwest), from where you can download an application pack for individual events.