

# Chinese Language and Culture Workshops

30 Year 8 pupils from Archbishop Sentamu Academy in Hull visited the University of Hull over two days on 28th and 29th September 2010. The two-day event had been specifically designed to accommodate the learning needs of the pupils who had already begun to study Chinese in their first year at secondary school.

discover that the characters actually look like the words they represent. For instance, a picture of one tree means 'tree', a picture of two trees means 'forest' and a picture of three trees together represents 'a dense forest'.

After lunch the students were taken on a campus tour and were given the chance to look round the University, including the library, Students' Union and the Language Learning Centre.

The last session of the day looked at Chinese culture and the pupils gained an insight into the way Chinese people celebrate certain festivities.

The days were a huge success and this was reflected in the pupils' feedback. Many commented on how much fun they'd had, that they'd learnt a lot more than they knew previously, and came away from the days feeling they were able to speak a lot more Chinese, as well as being challenged by having to learn and remember more facts and phrases.

The aim is to open these days up to different schools in the future so that more pupils in Hull get the opportunity to learn about a language and culture that is very different from their own.

The days kicked off with a presentation on Why Study Languages? and some entertaining clips about language learning, which encouraged the pupils to think about why languages are important, not only for their success in school, but looking ahead to university and their future careers.

Then the first Chinese session of the day got underway, devised and delivered by Shu-Mei Li, one of the tutors at the University. This lesson focused on Chinese language and pupils looked at basics such as numbers, greetings and how to form basic sentences – putting into practice what they had learnt in their Chinese lessons in Year 7 and building upon this.

After a short break it was back to the hard work and this time pupils got stuck into learning about Chinese characters – what they are, how to read them and then practising how to write them down. For many students, it was fascinating to



## Tag der deutschen Einheit,

University of Leeds

In spite of the torrential rain, eighteen pupils from Years 12 and 13 at Guiseley School and Woodkirk High Specialist Science School came together to celebrate twenty years of German Unity, marking the official anniversary of Reunification on October 3rd 1990.



In the morning, the students were given the historical context and introduced to the key themes of the period by Professor Paul Cooke whose lecture was entitled 'German Unification Twenty Years In'. They then attended two workshops which concentrated in more detail on the cultural representations of these themes; pop music was the focus of 'Wieder schwarz-rot-gold? Mia's controversial 'Was es Ist' as a mirror of German identity after reunification' by Giles Harrington and Helen Finch, and film the subject matter of 'Ostalgie and Good Bye, Lenin!' by Richard Boffey and Chris Homewood. After lunch, the pupils worked in groups of four or five to create short segments of a television documentary about the Tag der deutschen Einheit. Bettina Suarez Y Weber introduced the activity, encouraging students to think about documentaries and to plan the contents of their segments. During the final workshop of the day, we watched the finished documentary which included a dramatisation of the effects of the Berlin Wall, a talk show discussion about Reunification, a roving reporter interview revealing contemporary attitudes to the concepts of East and West and a sketch showing everyday life and opinions about Unity. Students will all receive their own copy of the documentaries.

Everyone involved contributed to making the day such a success: the members of staff from the German Department at the University of Leeds, the student ambassadors and of course the visiting schools.

## Aspiring Almodóvars roll out the red carpet

Sheffield Hallam University

Aspiring young filmmakers from Sheffield held their own version of the Cannes Film Festival in July at Sheffield Hallam University, where they screened their short films, all of which were made in a foreign language.

Pupils from nine local schools attended the screening to watch the two-minute films they had made in French, German and Spanish. The films were produced to give pupils the opportunity to put their language skills into practice and highlight the benefits of learning another language.

A judging panel of Maria Scheule from the languages subject area at Sheffield Business School, Ron Wright from Sheffield Hallam and Janine Turner at the Goethe Institut Manchester awarded prizes to the top three films as well as individual prizes of HD cameras to Isla Tyrrell from King Edward VII and Jasmin Gittins from Oakwood School for their outstanding contribution. Jasmin Gittins, along with Emily McNulty and Hayley Rogers were also awarded first prize for their film 'Quest for a Cuppa'. Also in joint first place was 'Leider bin ich hier fremd' by Sam, John, Chris, Grace and Lucy and in second place was French film 'Frittish' by Hannah Campbell, Hannah Betts, Emily Fleming and Fraser Campbell.

In July, the Schools and Colleges Liaison Office at Sheffield Hallam hosted a three-day languages film summer school for students of French, German and Spanish.

Forty-three pupils from King Edward VII, Brinsworth Comprehensive, Stocksbridge High, Notre Dame, Meadowhead, Hayfield, Oakwood, Wales and Silverdale schools took part in interactive workshops on storyboarding, script writing and language grammar. Sessions were delivered by university staff, school teachers and local film maker, Nick Shaw, who shared his film making expertise.

Pupils then filmed around the University to produce their two-minute films which will be submitted to the national Languages and Film Talent Awards competition in 2011.

Matthew Hunt, from the Sheffield Business School at Sheffield Hallam, said: "Making a film in a second language is a creative and fun activity which will serve the students well for language study, where the ability to manipulate language and discuss more intellectual ideas is really important."

Elaine Pawling, head of languages at King Edward VII school said: "Film is an ideal tool to help with language learning. Studying film not only allows students to become aware of the local cultural identity of a country, but also more aware as global citizens."

The summer school was a joint venture organised by Sheffield Business School and the Faculty of Arts, Computing, Engineering and Sciences at Sheffield Hallam University with King Edward VII School, Brinsworth Comprehensive School in partnership with Routes into Languages.

## Book Launch: Diversity, Poems and reflections by young writers

Leeds Metropolitan University

The launch of a new book, *Diversity poems and reflections by young writers*, was celebrated on Friday 24 September in Gandhi Hall. The book, containing poetry and prose written by students from Routes into Languages partner schools, was the outcome of the Young Writers Enterprise Project: my community and noticing the other. School students were invited to write a poem or text of up to 500 words to describe their view of others in a multicultural society. Thirty-five submissions were chosen from entries by Bradford Academy, David Young Community Academy, Ermysted's Grammar School for Boys, Minsthorpe Community College, Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College, St Bede's Catholic Grammar School and Trinity Academy.

Entries show that students have reflected on the issue of self-identity and cultural differences. For some students this is a reflection on cultural diversity in their school or home town; for others it is the impact of foreign travel and other cultures on their self-awareness. The project celebrates the young writers' love of languages in the broader and significant context of cultural differences. Entries include reflections on the students' experiences with languages and the issues of multilingualism / monolingualism are addressed through the students' personal reflections.

This project has engaged school students from varied backgrounds and communities in reflection on community, self-awareness, multilingualism and "noticing the other" and has helped them learn to articulate their thoughts in writing. The outcome is a valuable and flexible resource for other communities both locally and internationally and may provide opportunities for new contacts and partnerships to develop.

At the book launch, prizes were presented by Rai Shacklock, Subject Group Leader Languages and ELT, to all the young writers in the book. Six submissions given special prominence within the book were awarded trophies. First prize went to Emma Helliwell for *But in French I shine* and second prize winner Thierry Ngutegure read his poem *How is your community?* The celebration continued with a poetry reading by Ursula Troche, word artist and multicultural community worker, and workshop activities engaged the school students present with the winning entries and, more broadly, with the themes of languages and cultural diversity.

## Gandhi Hall goes Multicultural - European Day of Languages Carnival

Leeds Metropolitan University

Gandhi Hall lived up to its name on Friday 24 September as 140 students from partner schools and colleges came together to celebrate languages and cultures from around the world. In the European Day of Languages Carnival, Leeds Metropolitan University marked a day that is celebrated across Europe.

The European Day of Languages, proclaimed by the Council of Europe On 6th December 2001, aims to encourage language learning across Europe and to foster the linguistic legacy of the European Year of Languages 2001. Each year, the European Day of Languages is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of language learning in the global economy, to promote the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe and to encourage lifelong language learning in and out of school.

This year, we were pleased to welcome students from Airedale High School, Brigshaw High School, David Young Community Academy, Ermysted's Grammar School for Boys, Minsthorpe Community College, Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College, St Bede's Catholic Grammar School and St Joseph's Catholic College. An important objective of the day was to excite their interest in other countries and other languages. This was facilitated by Level 6 students just returned from France and Spain, our new French assistant Chamima Soufou and Erasmus students from Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Norway and Poland. Other activities included an Italian workshop, cultural diversity poetry, a European quiz led Europe Direct Leeds and Chinese paper cutting.

At the close of the event, David Young Community Academy was awarded the Routes into Languages trophy for their contribution to language activities in the course of the year. The atmosphere on the day is best summed up by one school student who, without any prompting, stated "I love languages". This level of enthusiasm will not only enrich her life, but will contribute to the country's wellbeing in a global economy.

## Score with Languages RLN Y & H



Since September, 2008 Bradford City FC and St Bede's School have been linked through a Business Champions Language Partnership. This partnership was initially set up to show how languages, sport and business share common skills and aims. From the start it was obvious that there were many projects that could be developed to the benefit of both Club and School. The Club enabled the students to have exclusive interviews, presentations by business leaders, guided tours of the facilities and the opportunity to represent the Club as Ball Boys at the home games. The school puts on Spanish lessons for the players and staff linked to the Club, and have designed a website link about the Club for the Official Bradford Tourism and Culture Board and this summer local primary schools enjoyed a mixture of football coaching and language lessons provided jointly by the Club and St. Bede's languages department.

It seemed a natural step forward to support the Club's efforts to raise more funding for the Bradford Burns Unit. As such, the year 7 students have worked hard to beat off competition to win a place in the Step Up Market challenge where all the profits from the goods they produce and sell will go to the Burns Unit. They kicked off this project at a charity match in the summer, making over £100 profit. The products are all related to the Club and the boys worked lunchtimes and after school to manufacture the items. The final amount raised for Charity was £750 and the six boys involved presented the cheque to Mr David Baldwin CEO at BCFC.

Though the partnership was small to begin with, it has grown to teach students not only language and enterprise skills but also an understanding of and pride in their Club and their community.



## Forthcoming events

### Languages @ Work

A day event for Y9 pupils demonstrating how languages can be used in the world of work. Pupils participate in a business simulation workshop, language taster session, university workshop and campus tour. This event takes place at the University of Leeds on **November 11th & 17th, December 1st & 8th 2010, January 12th & 19th, February 2nd & 9th 2011.**

### GOAL!

A 1-day event for Y9/Y10 in which they participate in language immersion workshops with a football theme. This event takes place at the University of Leeds on the **26th of January 2011.**

## National Networks

### National Network for Interpreting

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

### National Network for Translation

[www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/translation](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/translation)

## Available Now!

### The Ambassadors DVD

This original and motivating DVD was produced collaboratively by the partner institutions which make up the Routes into Languages Yorkshire and The Humber consortium. This unique DVD tackles the myths surrounding language learning and delves into the world of Language Student Ambassadors as they explain why languages are important for them and their future careers.



The DVD is for parents/pupils/teachers to watch so they can get a truthful insight into becoming a language student at university and the decisions that were made that led the students to study a degree in languages. We want to dispel the myths surrounding language study in higher education and the

DVD gives the Ambassadors the opportunity to talk about how they dealt with studying languages and how they overcame any initial difficulties. It also examines myths such as everyone speaks English, so you don't have to learn another language; studying a language is hard; it's scary living abroad for a year; if you study a language, the only career you can go into is teaching. The Language Ambassadors deal with these myths in an honest and spontaneous way.

The DVD consists of a range of interviews with Language Student Ambassadors as they travel from one university in Yorkshire to another in vintage Minis. The interviews are very natural and all the students give their honest opinions about how languages have and will help shape their future.

'The Ambassadors' is aimed at 11-18 year olds and will hopefully become an invaluable resource in schools. It can be used in assemblies, open evenings or language lessons to help raise the profile of language learning, in today's global society in which the ability to speak a second language plays an increasingly important role.

## Keep in touch

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