

Active Languages 2

Building on the success of last year's Active Languages event at the University of Leeds, Active Languages 2 got off to a great start, on Wednesday 9th June at York St John University.



14 schools attended the event, represented by one language teacher and one member of the PE department from each school and was co-organised by Routes into Languages Yorkshire and The Humber, (Claire Barber, Project Manager) and The Youth Sports Trust, (Bev Whiteside). The scheme allows for all schools attending to submit a proposal to win £1000 to run a pilot project in their school combining languages and sport/PE from the autumn term 2010.

The event began with a talk by Bev Whiteside who introduced the event. She explained the concept behind a project which links languages and sport, taking the idea that learning languages through a different medium can help stimulate pupils and increase their motivation and commitment to learning languages in the future. This was followed by a presentation from Brian Davis of Lady Lumley's School in North Yorkshire on his inspirational project of French and handball that he has run with his Year 10 pupils throughout the last academic year. As a result of this successful project, four of these students have gone on to represent Yorkshire in a national tournament and one of the students is now training with the England U16 Handball Squad. If successful he will go to Sweden for a

tournament. Cornelia Smith and Dan Watts from Queen Elizabeth School and Sports College in Warwickshire then delivered a short presentation on the Arsenal Double Club model of teaching languages through football. These presentations gave the delegates at the event real examples of how they could implement a similar project in their school with the help of the Active Languages grant.

Practical sessions followed with the teachers split into two groups, with one participating in a demonstration and game of handball with French, run by Brian Davis, and the other group taking part in football with French, lead by Dan Watts. One teacher commented: "The practical sessions were fun and very enjoyable. Even the non-sporty people could see the benefits of this kind of delivery. This typified why this is essential if we are to move things forward with language learning."

The afternoon session focused on the teachers writing a detailed action plan and funding application working together to come up with new and innovative projects to run in their individual schools. These projects were submitted at the end of June and after careful consideration 12 school projects have been accepted and will receive £1000 by the start of September. Claire Barber commented: "This year teachers found the Active Languages event in June 'inspirational' to quote one delegate. This was reflected in the quality and creativity of the projects that were submitted and have been approved. Many projects this year have taken a different approach and have come up with some very interesting ideas. One school is going to run 'Jeux sans Frontières – It's a Knockout,' which will involve sports such as tug of war, line-dancing, handball, football skills and sumo wrestling taught in French. Another school is going to run a 'Strictly Come Mexborough' project which will mix language acquisition and dance, to incorporate cheerleading, Latin dance (salsa, tango etc), Hakka and street dance. We very much look forward to seeing how these projects, and all the others, progress and seeing what the outcomes are. The projects will all then be embedded into the language and sports curriculum for each school so that the project is sustainable and will run year on year."

The University of Hull

Hull City Football Club and Yorkshire County Cricket Club, in association with the Yorkshire Cricket Board and Routes into Languages Yorkshire and The Humber, have joined in partnership to deliver a modern foreign language programme to local primary and secondary schools across Hull.



The programme is the first of its kind where a Cricket and Football Club have joined together to deliver a languages programme into schools alongside football and cricket coaching. Three French pilot programmes have just taken place during the summer term at Alderman Cogan Primary School, Hull Collegiate School, and at St Mary's College in Hull.

Players from both Clubs have been involved in the educational element with Hull City footballer Steven Mouyokolo and Yorkshire County Cricket Club's Hull born fast bowler Steve Patterson, each recording a teaching aide DVD to be played during class lessons. The students participating on the 10-week course are rewarded with a visit to KC Stadium for a presentation ceremony and stadium tour at the end of each programme. Tickets to watch Yorkshire play at Headingley Carnegie Cricket Ground were given to each student.

Ed Townend from the Tigers Sport and Education Trust said "We are pleased to be working in partnership with Yorkshire County Cricket Club to deliver this new Language Club to the schools in Hull. We hope that by using the professional sports clubs to drive attainment in Modern Foreign Languages, students will find this new approach to learning exciting and interesting whilst receiving multi-sports coaching undertaken by the football club's community coaches."

Alison Giles, Community Marketing Manager for Yorkshire County Cricket Club added: "Hull City Football Club are leading on this programme, however, we have put two of the Hull City FC Football in the Community coaches through UK Level 2 Cricket Coaching courses so that a football and cricket themed session can take place with the students. We're really proud to be working with Hull City Football Club on this innovative educational programme and are pleased to be reaching more

people in the Hull and Humber area."

Sam, aged 9 said: "I've really enjoyed the classes. I liked going to the KC Stadium to see where my heroes play. It's lots of fun learning French with football and cricket too – it's much better than normal school!"

As part of the same scheme, 14 Year 11 pupils from Hull Collegiate school, all studying French were recently invited to visit the KC Stadium to interview a French-speaking Hull City player in his native language. The player was Steven Mouyokolo, one of the team's defenders. Pupils asked a wide range of interesting questions which they had prepared beforehand in class focusing largely on his football background and how he prepared before a match – but they also managed to slip in one or two more serious questions such as his opinion of the French President Sarkozy! Mr Gordon Stephenson Head of Modern Languages at Hull Collegiate commented: "The player spoke very clearly and our pupils managed to understand his replies very well. Afterwards, the group was treated



to a tour of the stadium, including the changing rooms, tunnel, VIP suite and the Manager's area."

Each student participating in the Double Club project receive resources supplied by Hull City and Yorkshire County Cricket Club, with the support of Routes into Languages and include a resource booklet, branded goodies, rewards and a trip to Headingley at the end of the programme. Claire Barber, Regional Project Manager for Routes into Languages Yorkshire and the Humber commented: "This is a very exciting opportunity and an excellent project that motivates young learners to study languages, especially those who are disengaged in language lessons, and it helps pupils see languages from a different perspective. This is the first time that Hull schools have had the opportunity to work alongside Hull City Football Club and as these pilot schemes have been a success we would like to be able to roll-out the project to other Hull schools in September 2010."

For more information about this project which is supported by Routes into Languages Yorkshire and The Humber please contact: routes@hull.ac.uk

University of Leeds

The Linguastars residential held at Leeds in 2009 proved so popular that we did it all over again this year! The two-day residential took place this year on 1st and 2nd of July.



22 AS level pupils attended from schools and colleges from across the North of England. The aim of the event was to introduce the students to University life, to provide them with an opportunity to develop their A level target language skills and to try new subjects which they otherwise might not encounter during their A level courses. After a lively ice breaker session on Thursday morning (which involved being a barnyard animal and then building the tallest possible tower out of balloons, drinking straws and sellotape), the students got down to some hard work, attending language workshops in French, German and Spanish as well as trying out subjects like Linguistics, World Cinemas and Portuguese. The most popular taster session, however, proved to be Interpreting, which allowed the pupils the chance to practise their interpreting skills (about knitting!) in the University's Interpreting suite. In addition to these sessions, students had the opportunity to explore the campus and to get an insider's perspective of what (not) to do on a UCAS form. Thursday evening gave all those who attended the chance to experience the lighter side of University life as they went to a local restaurant for a meal and then stayed overnight at a nearby Halls of Residence. On Friday, the students continued to attend workshops, in preparation for a target language presentation session at the end of the day, with a prize on offer for the best presentation. Despite some stiff competition from two very informative presentations in Spanish, a mime, a TV interview and 'A day in the life of...' in German, the overall winner was the French group who presented a short sketch about the lives of three University students all adeptly interpreted for those who didn't speak French. The positive feedback which we received from those who attended would seem to suggest that we will be running this event again next year! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who came along, all the student guides who supported the event and all the staff who provided the workshops as they helped to make Linguastars 2010 so successful. THANK YOU!

Leeds Metropolitan University

Leeds Met Language Ambassadors have been helping school students gain more confidence in French at the French Activity Weekend held on 23 – 25 April 2010.

Seven level 2 French undergraduates attended an all French speaking activity weekend with pupils from Ermysted's Grammar School to help prepare them for their up-and-coming GCSE exams.



Taking place at Nell Bank Activity Centre, most of the French weekend was spent outdoors where Leeds Met Language Ambassadors took part in playing team games, which involved guiding blind-folded individuals across assault courses, as well as football and frisbee challenges.

Jointly organised by Leeds Met French lecturer Marion Lines and Clare Hudson from Ermysted's Grammar School, the project is part of Routes into Languages which aims to encourage language learning in local high schools.

As part of the project Leeds Metropolitan language students regularly help out providing the chance to use and improve their language skills.

Marion Lines commented: "Everyone has really enjoyed the activity weekend and the pupils have been very interactive. It's been a fantastic weekend where everyone involved, including our language students, has been challenged by being immersed for two days in the French language."

One Language Ambassador, Hayley Winnick, who attended the fun-packed French weekend said: "It's been a great experience and an ideal opportunity to practise my French knowledge and work with young people. I've learnt lots of new skills that I'll be able to use when I work as a teaching assistant in France next year - I wouldn't have been able to gain this valuable experience anywhere else."

Routes into Languages at Leeds Metropolitan provides the opportunity for our students to work with local schools on a variety of projects which goes towards helping to practise and enhance their language skills.

University of Sheffield

The University of Sheffield have run another very successful series of visits to local schools, targeting Y9 students who are preparing for their KS4 choices.



Once again, our ambassadors engaged them with presentations of their year abroad experiences, motivation for studying languages and future plans. These events are simple to run and organise, but prove very effective in encouraging take-up of a language option at KS4. A colleague from Birley College, for whom this was the first such event, commented "Finally, many thanks to you and the students who came to talk to us today. They were really professional and great with the kids. Definitely worth doing from our point of view." And Brinsworth Secondary School, which we have visited for several years now, echo these views: "What a success!!! Please pass on our thanks to your fantastic students. All of the department came up to me individually yesterday to say what a success the morning had been. Our students were really engaged."

Another high point was a visit to Wales High School to present the prizes to the winners of the Year 7-9 category in our 'World In Your Region' competition. Jessica Hand, Lauren Hand, Jessica Hawley and Emma Langton produced a fabulous poster with poems in 11 different languages, all translated into English alongside the original language. The poems even demonstrate tricky features such as rhyme in both languages! It was such a privilege to meet these talented young linguists and their teacher, Tina Didlock, who had suggested they enter the competition.

Sheffield Hallam University

Language sports day puts children to the test

On March 24th Sheffield Business School and the faculty of Health & Wellbeing held a 'languages sports day' at The English Institute of Sport in Sheffield which saw local Year 10 pupils

participating in an inter-school competition combining languages and sport.

The fun and interactive activities, run by Sports Student Ambassadors and Language Assistants, ranged from an assault course where blind-folded pupils were guided by a partner using instructions in another language and creating posters to promote the benefits of hosting major sporting competitions, such as the Olympics, to a final relay race involving all pupils from Handsworth Grange, King Edward VII, Kingstone, Aston Comprehensive and Dearne Schools.

At the end of the event, Olympic silver medallist winner, Leon Taylor, presented the schools with cheques for sports equipment and posed for pictures with everyone involved.

The University of Bradford

Thanks to funding from Routes into Languages, St Bede's School, Heaton, Bradford was able to offer their Year 10 MFL students a fifteen week course of basic Mandarin Chinese.

Course tutor Wanyu Zheng from Bradford University made the lessons accessible and challenging, well-structured and fun, incorporating not only basic language skills but also the culture and history of China, instilling in the students the wish to visit the country in the future.

Language tutors are very impressed with the progress they have made. And the students themselves were delighted with the course. "A fantastic opportunity" said one. "I am thrilled I took it." "Wanyu has inspired me to continue with languages to a higher level and I am grateful for the opportunity we have had", said another. "I will take a lot of newly learnt skills from this opportunity", said a third.

What might have been a tough 15 weeks was made easy to follow through the skills of Wanyu, and students would welcome the opportunity to do a similar course again.

York St John University

World War II would seem an unlikely theme for a modern languages event, however, it proved to be a remarkably inspiring and thought-provoking subject as 500 pupils from primary and secondary schools across York found out.

Yorkshire Air Museum, in Elvington, near York, provided the setting for this new style of language learning. Young people taking part were able to test their French and German as well as being introduced to a whole host of new languages including Mandarin, Japanese, Arabic and even semaphore.

Instead of vocabulary tests and role-playing of everyday situations, pupils were asked to imagine themselves making contact with the French resistance, recounting stories as German prisoners of war, acting as evacuees packing their suitcases to escape an air-raid or coping with food rations.

The workshops took place around the museum, in aircraft

hangers and on board planes as teachers attempted to bring the languages to life.

Pupils were also set the challenge of making their own helicopters while communicating in French or German, learning about global food in the 1940s and taking part in a military style drill.

The museum was a former bomber command station during World War II and used by the French heavy bomber squadrons.

Its history meant it provided the perfect setting for pupils to take part in role-playing games in French, based on the story of Charlotte Gray from a novel about a young Scotswoman who becomes involved with the French resistance during the war. The story is thought to be based on the exploits of Nancy Wake, codenamed the White Mouse, a member of the Resistance in wartime France, and British secret service agent Pearl Cornioley.

The teaching sessions were delivered by primary and secondary school teachers along with university staff and it received excellent support from York St John Student Ambassadors, along with sixth formers from Fulford School, York, who acted as German prisoners of War teaching stories in German to their 'host' families.



The event was organised by York St John University languages lecturer Ann Gregory and part-funded by Routes Into Languages Yorkshire and The Humber.

She said: "I have always encouraged the learning of languages for real purposes in out-of-the-classroom situations and contexts, and I also love the opportunities to be creative in teaching and learning by thinking outside the box.

"I retire this year and I hope that with this event I will be leaving schools in York with a legacy rather than a swansong.

"My hope is that although not every group of linguists will have access to an airfield, this is a replicable activity which could be scaled down and the ideas used in individual schools."

Having invited pupils from both primary and secondary schools to work together, organisers also hope it will help the 11-year-olds to make the transition when they switch schools.

Open University

Year 11 students at Wetherby have not only been practising their language skills and looking at French in the business world, but they have been participating in the production of a DVD, which was released in January 2010!

Following the huge success of the Minsthorpe visit last year, it was decided to develop further this initiative and keep a visual record of the event for the school's website, to act as encouragement to future language learners in the school.

Thanks again must go to Hervé Povéda at Ancon for his welcoming manner and natural rapport with students. Again he made the world of business seem very accessible and students came away with really positive comments.

The film begins with preparatory work at the school and shows Janet Ireland (associate lecturer at the OU) interviewing students about why they are studying French, and how they feel when speaking to the natives. We then follow the journey to Sheffield and the presentation given in French. M Povéda is interviewed in both English and French about the importance of languages in the world of work.

Each student will be given a copy of the DVD as a reminder of the trip, but more importantly it is there to encourage others.

Comments included -

"I found this trip very useful and enjoyable - M. Povéda made it interesting and easy to absorb"

"I feel the day has helped with my confidence in speaking"

"M Povéda is friendly and enthusiastic. I have realised that learning a foreign language will help me in the future"

Forthcoming events

European Day of Languages Carnival

A carnival of language and cultural activities to celebrate languages throughout the world for Year 9 and above. This will include the book launch of the Young Writers Enterprise Project at Leeds Metropolitan University.

September 24th 2010

Spelling Bee Competition

National foreign language spelling competition for Year 7s launched on the European Day of Languages. For more information and to register pupils visit:

routesintolanguages.ac.uk/Yorkshire/events
September 26th 2010

Chinese Culture and Language Events

Two days of workshops and sessions focusing on Chinese Language, characters and cultural aspects, for Year 8 pupils, held at the University of Hull.

September 28th and 29th 2010

Tag der deutschen Einheit

Language and content workshops about German reunification with students producing a short educational DVD about reunification in the target language at The University of Leeds.

October 1st 2010

National Networks

National Network for Interpreting

www.nationalnetworkforinterpreting.ac.uk

National Network for Translation

www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/translation

Coming soon

The Ambassadors



A brand new DVD aimed at 11-18 year olds, showcasing the work of Language Student Ambassadors at universities across Yorkshire and The Humber. This unique DVD tackles the myths surrounding language learning and delves into the world of student ambassadors as they explain why languages are important for them and their future careers. The DVD is due to be released at

the beginning of September. To order a copy, please email: routes@hull.ac.uk or phone 01482 465862

Available Now!

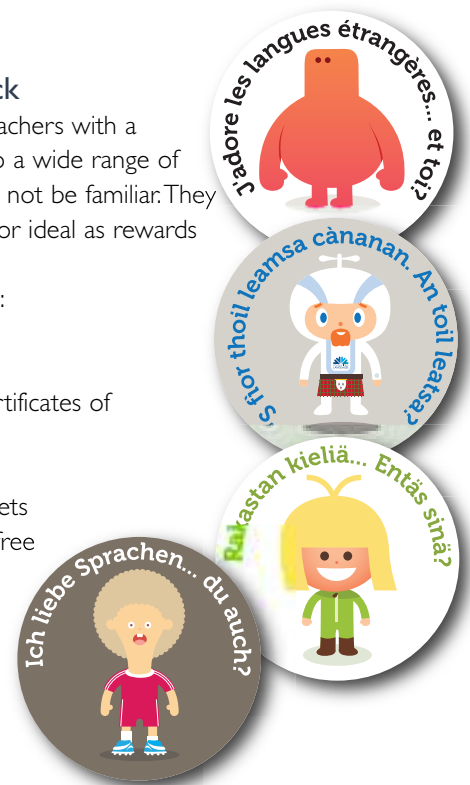
I Love languages... do you? activity pack

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. They are great for The European Day of Languages or ideal as rewards throughout the year.

The packs contain resources in 22 languages:

- an A2 poster
- 48 stickers
- 22 postcards (which can be used as certificates of attainment)
- 30 pin badges
- two photocopyable, pedagogic worksheets
- The first 500 orders will also receive a free 'Why study languages' classroom poster!

Packs cost £8 including p&p, to order a pack please visit the website:
<http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/love>



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