

Routes into Languages Yorkshire and The Humber Launch Event

Pupils from Longcroft School with international Hull City players



It was September 24, 2008 when the creatures of The Deep heard sounds the like of which, they had never known before.

Above and beside the huge aquarium tanks where more than 3500 exotic fish and 40 sharks swim free, came the exotic murmurings of youth, enthusiasm and international opportunity.

This was the launch of The Routes into Languages Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Consortium, attended by over 200 plus people, school children, teachers, academics, football heroes and business people from across the region.

Hull's own Tigers, Daniel Cousin, Richard Garcia and Kamil Zayatte were there. Distinguished examples of how languages lead to international success, Daniel and Kamil are French speakers and Richard speaks Spanish as a second language.

And when the 220 guests were seated in the Oceans Gallery – the show began. This combined performances by students and speeches by guests.

It was clear that the pupils had learned so much by combining their language learning with performance arts. Mr Jonathan Chapman - Head of Expressive Arts and Gospel Choir Director at Longcroft School and College of Performing Arts said: "Everyone was very excited to have been invited to sing at such a prestigious event."

Pupils of Longcroft School sang in Spanish and danced. There was also a solo in French and a German lullaby for the audience to enjoy.

Afterwards Eleanor Metcalf - Form IIN - Age 15 said: "It was

such a pleasure to be involved in a project like this. We hoped to stun the audience with our super Spanish performance, "Toma Que" and I think we did."

Mrs Beverley Dodd of Wombwell School in Barnsley invited five of her pupils on stage to give a presentation about the value of developing awareness of global citizenship and of looking beyond your immediate environment. Five of her pupils talked briefly about how much they were enjoying this work.

Ms Claudia Lorenz, a modern languages teacher at Kelvin Hall, (Hull) invited two of her pupils, Lauren Jessney and Kieran Clark to talk about school exchanges. They were enthusiastic about working with students from other schools in Germany whether it was a production of "Joseph" (put together in a week) or a written Fitness project.

Veronique Hu student ambassador from the University of Hull and a post graduate Law student with fluent Chinese, French and English, stunned the audience when she described her role which includes visiting schools to talk about career options with languages, helping with revision sessions for GCSE and welcoming students from schools to the university.

Distinguished guests included John Godber, Joint Artistic Director of Hull Truck Theatre, who said that he wished there had been more chances to learn a foreign language when he was a child. "We have to make sure that we get it right for this generation," he added. One of the speakers, Ms Carolyn Burgess chief executive of a Howden based translation company said that she had named her company Language is Everything "Because for me Language is Everything."

The evening was crowned by a speech from Lord Dearing, who initiated Routes into Languages. He spoke to the audience via a video link. "In my day we used to say that Britain was our oyster. But this is no longer big enough in today's world."

Dr Mozzon-McPherson, University of Hull, who leads the Consortium and organised this evening with project manager Kerry Dobson, said 'The brilliant performances in French, German and Spanish from the students of Longcroft were an example of how languages can be integrated into a different subject in an enjoyable way. The world of the arts through a range of media whether it is cinema, TV, music or any form of performing arts and drama is one in which skills such as those of translating, interpreting and subtitling are vital.

"We are delighted by the superb support from everyone here tonight – we have a long way to go to make sure that every child has a chance to learn a foreign language but we will achieve this."

The University of Hull

A Trade Fair organised by North Yorkshire pupils proved a huge success and is to be repeated annually.



The fun of Eurofest was that the stalls were so varied! They were highly inventive and offered information on everything from clothing to tourist information.

The event attracted over 100 Year 7 pupils and was held at Selby College. It was organised by North Yorkshire Educational Business Partnership and supported by the University of Hull through Routes into Languages, Yorkshire and The Humber and The Regional Language Network for Yorkshire and The Humber.

This was a great opportunity for the children participating in the experience to see how important languages are in the real world of business. The children, from secondary feeder schools linked to Selby College were competing with children from the different schools for a first prize trophy.

The stalls were manned by 3 - 4 pupils, and each participant had to conduct their business in either French or German. Language student ambassadors from the University of Hull, together with Business Language Champions supporting the event through the Regional Language Network engaged with the children trying to sell their products, and asked them questions using the appropriate target language.

Participants were judged on their efforts with design of product and stall, use of language and communications skills being some of the key areas assessed.

Local dignitaries also attended the event and saw first hand the enthusiasm and the hard work put into the event by the North Yorkshire school children.

Leeds Metropolitan University

A traditional Rwandan dance, an introduction to Chinese and a language quiz were amongst items on the agenda for the language carnival which marked European Day of Languages at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Year 11 pupils from Horsforth High School and Ermysted Grammar School came along to take part in a vibrant and lively celebration of language skills and cultural diversity.

International Dean, Professor Elspeth Jones, spoke about the benefits of language learning and the many opportunities it can bring.

Dr Théophile Munyangayo who coordinated the event said: "In Languages at Leeds Met, we recognise that our local community represents a very healthy plurilingualism with enormous hidden talents in language skills, especially among young people. Our strategies of internationalising learning include promoting and celebrating linguistic diversity by reinforcing the positive message among young people about the benefits of languages and encouraging them to take special pride in their language skills".

James Bovington, language tutor from Horsforth High School said, "I like to bring the students to Leeds Met to see all the exciting language opportunities on offer at this large and thriving university."

Prizes were given to the schools for taking part with Ermysted Grammar School taking the main prize for the language quiz.



Regional Language Network, Yorkshire and the Humber

The RLNYH believes that languages have a vital role to play in boosting the economy of the region.

In Bradford alone, of the estimated 762,000 staying visitors, 9% are from overseas visitors. There are a further estimated 6.7million day trip visitors. Together these visitors generate an estimated £465.2million for Bradford and district.

For this reason, director Dr Sandra Potesta was delighted when Patricia Tillotson of the Tourist Information Centre seized on the opportunity to work with local school students to raise their awareness of the value of tourism and to inspire them to build language skills for welcoming visitors.

Tricia worked together with Rahila Hussein, Teacher at Queensbury High School, to design a project that would be both exciting for the students and beneficial for the Tourism Information Centre:

- to put together a brochure and presentation in Spanish about Bradford District to present to the Tourism information Centre in Calella, Northern Spain
- to enhance the product knowledge of the students and give them 'A Sense of Place'.

Students were given a range of tourism information, ranging from photographs to ideas about where to go and what to see in Bradford, to get them started. They focused on six topic areas:

- Bradford
- Haworth
- Ilkley
- Arts & Culture
- Food & Drink
- Events

Over the three month period available, students worked very hard and although it was not possible to complete the whole project brief, it was agreed that it had been a very worthwhile activity.

For the school, the project met their needs:

- enhancing the students' study visit experience to Spain
- creating an opportunity for students to see how languages are useful for the world of work
- providing a meaningful and fun environment in which students could develop their language skills
- developing students' enterprise skills, e.g. innovation, teamwork, creativity, communication, promoting a 'can-do' approach to their work

The icing on the cake was when students and staff visited Calella, 50km outside the popular tourist city of Barcelona. There, the students made their presentation on Bradford attractions to the Manager of the Tourist Information Centre. On their return, students gave a presentation to parents, staff, and Education Bradford on their visit and achievements while in Spain.

Prizes were awarded for work commitment as well as individual and teamwork prizes for the enterprise work undertaken.

This worthwhile project built on a previous project inspired by the Tourist Information Centre working with five Y12 students from Holy Family School. The students were set the task of advertising Haworth and its facilities in Japanese. The resulting content is to be used on the Visit Bradford website to attract Japanese visitors and to provide native speaker content for better customer care.

Sheffield Hallam

China is rarely out of the news and Sheffield Hallam University wanted to share the rich experience of their Chinese students with young people attending local schools, interested in learning more about this exciting country.

A Chinese Cultural Awareness event seemed the perfect solution.

One morning in June, the University's Languages Subject Group hosted an event attended by around 30 local school pupils; it was an opportunity for them and their teachers to find out what life is really like for Chinese students studying in the UK. It was also a superb chance to learn more about the cultural differences and similarities of the two nations.

The day was led by Maria Scheule and colleagues from the languages department. Pupils enjoyed taking part in a Chinese language taster session and were clearly not daunted by the complexity of the language, judging by their comments. One student said: "The Chinese lesson was really fun."

The pupils interviewed Chinese students at Sheffield Hallam about their experiences of living and studying in Sheffield.

One commented: "I really enjoyed interviewing the Chinese students. This was the best part of the day for me. I wished the event could have lasted longer!"

The pupils listened to a talk on International business links in China from a local entrepreneur. One commented: "We have learned a lot and also had a lot of fun. I really enjoyed learning different things about China and Chinese people."

York St. John University

New students arriving at York St John University as well as those from local schools and colleges joined in a celebration of the European Day of Languages at York St John University.

Taster sessions included Spanish, French, Italian and Turkish. As the day coincided with the welcome week for all the new students joining York St John University, invitations were also extended to them to



come and try a language. It was a combined effort -MFL tutors offered taster sessions staff and students also fluent in a language joined in too.

To start the evening 'Una Voce', a singing quartet from the YSJU music department presented a selection of acappella songs in English, Spanish and Latin.

People arrived throughout the evening and were invited to take part in as many or as few sessions as they wished. Refreshments were available and the atmosphere was friendly and relaxed - a great opportunity for tutors to learn alongside students and for some students to teach tutors!

In a separate Routes event, continuing York St John University's work with Archbishop Holgate's Secondary School, two YSJU MFL tutors led intensive speaking sessions for 62 students in Greek and Japanese. These were for the students who joined one of the first RiL events in June.

The Open University

The Open University is keen to develop ways of supporting students as part of the Routes into Languages initiative.

With this in mind a group of Heads of Languages met with OU staff to explore ways in which the OU might support students.



Helga Adams, Staff Tutor in Yorkshire and the North, opened the day at the OU centre in Leeds by giving a brief introduction to the RiL initiative. Moving into smaller groups after this, the Heads of Languages and OU staff discussed particular needs and identified areas where the OU might be able to help. This was followed by a "tour of Lyceum" on a large screen. This is the OU synchronous conferencing system, enabling students and tutor to interact in the virtual world. Moving on to the IT suite, Angeles Sanchez Caballero, an OU Associate lecturer gave a hands on session for those opting for a Spanish taster, and Vincenzo Filacaro introduced another group to Italian.

Bearing in mind that the OU was hosting linguists, they had

anticipated the importance of food and there was plenty of comment on the excellent buffet!

In the afternoon, OU educational advisor Anne Milne spoke about the YASS scheme, whereby young people in schools can study an OU course alongside A levels - a great achievement and an excellent way to enhance a CV.

The feedback received was extremely positive with comments such as "Lovely to share ideas/concerns/issues with other colleagues;" "interactive session on Lyceum was very good;" "enjoyed experiencing course as student"

As a result of this event, the OU languages team will be supporting students from several schools with their French, German and Spanish studies. They will run dayschools, provide individual distance mentoring, face to face enhancement sessions and work with some gifted and talented students.

Two schools have also registered students on the YASS scheme for German and Spanish. OU Associate Lecturers will be closely monitoring their progress and provide individual mentoring throughout the academic year.

The University of York

Over 100 pupils from Years 10, 11 and 12 celebrated the European Day of Languages with help from the University of York. The Language and Culture Taster Day was held at Huntington School as part of the Routes into Languages activities.

Jenny Pinder, Head of the Modern Languages department at Huntington School is keen to raise language awareness and interest in relation to Russian and Mandarin Chinese. Two tutors from the Languages for All Programme at the University of York, Mrs Jenan Ali (Russian) and Mr Xuhui Hu (Chinese), spent the whole day at the school, and offered nine hours of language taster sessions to the pupils.

The taster sessions ranged from in-depth, two-hour language and culture classes with small groups to shorter, one-hour introductory language sessions. During the one-hour sessions, pupils acquired a basic knowledge of some key features of pronunciation, introductory phrases and numbers in their Russian or Chinese, and had the chance to practice speaking and a little writing. In the longer sessions, additional culture-related videos, interactive activities and other material were included.

Pupils reported that they really enjoyed learning about the culture of the countries concerned and that it was an interesting challenge to get to grips with a new language which they had not studied before. They described the day with words like "fantastic" and asked if it could be run again in the future.

The University of York hopes that the event has created a basis for links between university students studying Russian/Chinese and the school pupils who took part and are interested in studying Russian and Chinese further. This idea may be developed further through the creation of a Student Ambassadors scheme once the university year gets underway.

Routes into Languages, Yorkshire and The Humber Dissemination Event, the teachers' voice

Over 60 teachers from 30 different schools and colleges attended a languages event organised by Routes into Languages (Yorkshire and The Humber) at the Yorkshire Rail Academy in July.



This was an opportunity for teachers to discuss barriers which still get in the way of language learning and what strategies could be adopted to firmly engage the curiosity and concentration of young learners.

During a demanding but rewarding day, teachers from schools, colleges and universities examined and exchanged ideas about ways in which MFL teachers could engage and challenge language learners, using the support of Routes into Languages partners.

Routes into Languages partners presented details of successful schemes that have been used in schools to date. The list was a long one and included: student ambassadors providing support in schools for pupils preparing for GCSE oral exams; the use of Business Language Champions, companies who invite school pupils in to see how important languages are for international success; Language Days, created to highlight opportunities to learn and revision classes where students, teachers and undergraduates work out of school in half term holidays or school holidays to help students get on top of their revision and achieve as much as they can in examination results. Teachers discussed ways in which schemes of this type could be utilised by their own school.

Working in groups, teachers considered how the consortium could reach teachers and their pupils and what type of activities would be the most beneficial. Groups recommended having a "Bigger Voice" and stepping up meetings, seminars, communication with external agencies as well as on line marketing. They were also in favour of developing school partnerships with universities and industry wherever possible

and the RLNYH's Business Language Champions scheme was mentioned as a very successful example of school and industry link-up. By bringing language students from universities to schools - they would also help children see role models. Enabling students and pupils access to practising their verbal skills with native speakers through video conferencing, country visits and exchanges. There was also a heart-felt request for GCSE exam boards to include business topics and travel/tourism/media - not topics on pets/my school uniform/my bedroom!

The feedback after the meeting was extremely positive with comments ranging from "Excellent" to "Helpful and inspiring" or "Enthusiastic and interesting."

Dr. Marina Mozzon-McPherson, Consortium Director for Routes into Languages, Yorkshire and The Humber gave a presentation about aims of Routes into Languages. Dr Mozzon-McPherson said afterwards, speaking at the Yorkshire Rail Academy: "We have a long way to go in bringing modern languages to every young person in this region - but we will eventually ensure that they all have a chance to get on the language train.

"We are still battling against the concept that learning a foreign language is very difficult and not much fun. Sadly that was the case for a previous generation but today's world is a global one and we have to make modern languages work for this generation to succeed."

Dr. Sandra Potesta, Director of the Regional Language Network, Yorkshire and The Humber, gave a talk about the importance of languages from the employers' perspective emphasising how many opportunities were being missed or under played because of limited capability in this area.

The other speakers were Ms Claire Oxley of the National Rail Academy and Ms Ann Gregory, Comenius Centre Manger



Yorkshire and the Humber at York St. John University who talked about, Languages and the Profession, a Teacher's Perspective. Ann highlighted a number of issues and current trends, ranging from a reduction in applications to languages at GCSE and A level as well as to teacher training,

Forthcoming events

The Italian Job - GCSE revision day

31 January 2009 • The University of Hull

Routes into Languages Careers

24 February 2009

The University of Leeds

Spanish Day School

February 2009 • The Open University

For more information:
www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/yorkshire

National Networks

National Network for Interpreting

www.nationalnetworkforinterpreting.ac.uk

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www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/translation

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challenges faced by teachers in secondary schools as well as increasing languages provision in primary schools, curriculum changes at KS2, KS3 and KS4, and consequent uncertainty in a period of change. She suggested that the opportunities offered by the Routes into Languages project to increase contacts between universities and schools would hopefully begin to reverse the current decline in the uptake of languages post-GCSE. She said 'There are many lessons to be learnt from the primary initiative, which is beginning to bring primary & secondary colleagues together. Extending this sort of collaboration through Routes into Languages to KS4 and Universities will ensure that language learning is valued at every level.' Ann encouraged participants to open up dialogues and become involved in the project.

The event was a great success, with many of the teachers who attended subsequently contacting Routes (Yorkshire and The Humber) to look at ways they could engage with partners involved in the project. A spokesperson said: "We are delighted by the number of schools now approaching us for help and support with modern foreign language learning and hope more will feel able to do this."

The Routes into Languages Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Consortium is backed by all the Yorkshire Universities and plans to open up modern languages to 40 schools in this region and over 10,000 young people over the next three years. In the first six months it has already reached 19 schools and 4000 pupils.

What's the competition about?

This is an exciting opportunity for all secondary schools and colleges in Yorkshire and the Humber to take part in a competition to show off the linguistic and cultural diversity of this region.

How culturally diverse is your community?

How would you tell your story?

The competition, sponsored by Routes into Languages Yorkshire and The Humber, will allow pupils to tell their own stories about the cultural richness of the local community and what it means to them.

Who can apply?

- Anyone studying at a secondary school or Sixth Form college in Yorkshire and The Humber.
- Entries can be: individual or in group, There will be separate categories for groups and individuals. Groups should be no larger than 10 pupils.

Entry categories:

Category 1: Young individuals from Y7-Y9

Category 2: Young individuals from Yr 10-11

Category 3: Young individuals from Yr 12-13

Category 4: Groups from Y7-Y9

Category 5: Groups from Yr 10-11

Category 6: Groups from Yr 12-13

What can the submission be?

You can produce a piece of work using any type of artistic means. For example:

- a poem or story
- a piece of music or a song
- a film about different languages being spoken in your town
- a theatre performance
- a painting demonstrating the cultural diversity in your region etc.

Further details about this exciting competition are on our website:

www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/yorkshire