

## Active Languages Event

followed by a presentation from Alison Lucas of the Oasis Academy, Immingham on how combining languages and sports really work. Alison explained how young learners take on roles such as manager, coach, captain, player and physio, each with their own skills sets incorporated into the roles. Visual displays are used to highlight what they've been doing, for example relay races and a pentathlon.

Practical sessions followed with the 28 teachers split into two groups, with one group participating in a demonstration and practice of tag rugby with French run by Vicky Heslop of Bath Rugby Community Foundation, and the second group taking part in trampolining with French run by Josette Arnold and Amanda Cundle of Bowring Comprehensive School, Liverpool. Here under-achieving boys have become very enthusiastic about learning French, with boys in other streams complaining because the sessions were not available to them.



**Linking languages and sport/PE can engage and motivate learners. That was the thinking behind an Active Languages event for Yorkshire and The Humber region, held at the University of Leeds on Wednesday 8th July.**

This event launched a Routes into Languages scheme which could enable every school taking part to win £1000. Schools have been invited to submit a proposal to run a pilot project in their school, commencing in the autumn term of 2009 – 10 of the academic year. If successful in the submission of an effective proposal linking languages and sport/PE, each school will be awarded a sum of £1000.

Fourteen schools, each one represented by two teachers from MFL and PE departments attended the launch event which was co-organised by Routes into Languages Yorkshire and The Humber, (Kerry Dobson, Project Manager) and The Youth Sports Trust, (Bev Whiteside).

This teaching development encompasses group/teamwork, competition, practical learning opportunities, being outside the classroom, developing leadership and team working skills.

The launch event at Leeds University included a talk by Bev Whiteside (YST) highlighting activity that has taken place in various parts of the country combining sport and languages, and the rationale behind the purpose of such activity. This was

Kerry Dobson explained: "Routes and the Youth Sports Trust are actively looking for proposals that effectively combine any sport with the languages taught in the schools participating. By carrying out a pilot project like this, we aim to encourage schools to look at ways of embedding language learning and sport activities, and build on the success of the pilot project. Therefore activity needs to be sustainable, not just a one off event that only the two members of staff concerned can sustain. The aim is to encourage other members of the two departments to become involved and build on what takes place initially in the pilot."

All participating schools will be expected to submit case studies at the end of the academic year, (2010) and to distribute attitudinal questionnaires to their students at the beginning of the project and again at the end, so impact can be measured.

The aim is to show-case activity at the end of the year and invite more schools who did not participate in this scheme to attend, with a view to disseminating new ideas and best practice.

Routes into Languages would like to link the sports and languages theme into activity building up to the Olympics, to stress how vital languages are, but how they can also be fun.

FOR MORE INFO contact Kerry Dobson at Routes into Languages, Department of Modern Languages, University of Hull. Email: [routes@hull.ac.uk](mailto:routes@hull.ac.uk) Phone: 01482 462091

The University of Hull

## Language Event Scoops European Award

Selby College has been awarded a top European Language Award for its inaugural 'Eurofest' event which was held in June last year and repeated by popular request this summer.



Both events had received strong support from the HEFCE funded Routes into Languages, Yorkshire and The Humber consortium. Student ambassadors from Hull University's Modern Languages department assisted with the judging and Dr Marina Mozzon-McPherson, who is the director of Routes for Yorkshire and the Humber, gave a presentation about studying languages. This year's event was followed by a fun quiz and a prize sponsored by Routes and Hull University.

The aim was to promote the active use of foreign languages in a realistic business environment. Students were asked to design a product or research a tourist region in either France or Germany; much of this activity was done with the support of the teachers from the schools participating during normal school hours. The students then designed their own stalls, which were displayed at the Eurofest event – a simulated trade fair. Students promoted their product/region using the target language, and were judged on their language skills, as well as design of product and efforts with their stall. The judging panel included students from Hull University and PGCE students from York University, as well as other external stakeholders.

In addition to the use of student ambassadors to support the event last year, this year languages taster sessions were given by tutors from the University of Hull; these were Japanese, Chinese and Spanish.

The modern languages and enterprise event, which was this year attended by Year 8 pupils from six local schools (Barlby High School, Brayton College, Selby High School, Sherburn High

School, The Snaith School and The Holy Family School), was organised by North Yorkshire Business and Enterprise Partnership (NYBEP) and sponsored by Novotel (Leeds), Routes into Languages (University of Hull) and Regional Languages Network Yorkshire and the Humber.

Pupils had designed and created a range of stalls; some of which sold an array of products from masquerade ball masks to travel accessories, while others offered vital Tourist Information to visitors who were only able to speak to them in their designated language; French or German. This year, a number of prizes were awarded to Brayton College - for Best use of French Language, Best use of German Language, Best Trade Stand and Best Tourist Information Stand. The overall winner of Eurofest 2009 was The Holy Family School.

"We were delighted that Eurofest 2008 not only won a European Award for Languages but also received a surprise award - The Euro London Appointments Business Language Prize - with a cheque for £1000," said languages lecturer at Selby College, Heather Lister.

The European Award for Languages recognises creative ways to improve the quality of language teaching and motivate students. The Award is a Europe-wide initiative supported by the European Commission.

The partners involved in Eurofest are now working together to develop a package that can be used by other schools across the country who would like to host their own Eurofest event.

## The University of Leeds

**Modern languages teachers from Leeds and Wakefield were guests of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Leeds at an evening networking event in Spring 2009. The event enabled teachers to discover more about the opportunities offered by the Routes into Languages programme for their pupils.**

Subjects under discussion included current schools liaison activities and engagement possibilities for the next academic year led by Clare Leach and Jessica Bradley, Faculty Widening Participation Officers. The group also considered the admissions process and what students applying to study languages at university need to know in a talk delivered by Dave Baldwin, School Admissions Officer. Catriona MacLeod, Teaching Fellow in Interpreting, then facilitated a session on careers for speakers of modern foreign languages, showcasing the interesting and varied options available to those with language skills. The evening ended with cheese, wine and networking.

It is intended that this will be the first of a regular set of events for teachers focusing on different topics, such as the MFL curriculum, sharing good practice from other schools with higher take up of languages at KS4 and KS5, the latest innovations in teaching and learning and resources.

## Leeds Metropolitan University

# The winning formula!

**It takes more than bad weather to keep Leeds Metropolitan University Language Ambassadors at home and the requests for them to visit Yorkshire schools are coming in as thick and fast as any snow-fall.**

In February the focus was on Nab Wood School who had recently joined Routes into Languages as a partner school of Leeds Metropolitan University.

Head of MFL, Janet Wilson said: "The girls were brilliant! They are excellent ambassadors and a credit to the University. We were really grateful to them for battling through awful traffic and weather conditions."

Fortunately, the sun was shining on the return visit in April, when a group of almost 30 Year 9 students came to Headingley Campus for The University Experience. The purpose of the visit was to inspire the students with activities in the language department and more broadly by the opportunities that are part of student life at university. There was a taster session in Japanese and a campus tour with Language Ambassadors.

The Acre is the large grassy area at the heart of the Headingley campus – a student magnet in the sunshine. It created the perfect setting for an impromptu question and answer session with students

The comments of the Nab Wood School students involved were extremely enthusiastic. They included one by Hanan: "We learnt so much about the experience of a university student as well as a new language - Japanese!" Another student Tahira said: "The day made us stay focussed on our education and kept us motivated. Everyone was so friendly, especially our student tour guides."

The Nab Wood students arrived that afternoon with, between them, knowledge of five different languages and left with six but more than that, they had overcome their uncertainty about having a go at Japanese and they had learned something of another culture."

One teacher spoke for many when she said: "I hope that Routes into Languages may have inspired these young people to make languages part of their future plans."

## Regional Language Network Yorkshire and the Humber

**This summer the RLN YH managed three highly successful events, sponsored by Routes into Languages.**

Over 80 people attended the annual celebration of the Yorkshire and Humber Business Language Champions (BLC) project in Sheffield when 18 new BLC employers and 14 new BLC schools were awarded certificates.

The keynote speaker was Kate Board, CE of CILT who pointed out that there was more BLC activity in YH than other

parts of country. Kate also announced a further two years funding for the project.

Penny Simons of the University of Sheffield represented RiL which received a BLC certificate for its commitment to working with employers to support language learning.

A statement provided by Ed Balls was read out by Sandra Potesta, director of the RLN YH in support of the collaboration between languages and enterprise education,

The Novotel in Leeds was the venue for 'Setting a languages enterprise challenge.' This was an employer focus group, with support from Enterprise Education intermediaries - Young Enterprise, Enterprise Insight (Make Your Mark & Global Entrepreneurship Week campaigns). There were 15 attendees for the two events, which included an evening presentation about newly launched European SME Week by Jenny Lawson from Enterprise Europe Yorkshire and a breakfast event to explore opportunities for linking BLC activities into Global Entrepreneurship Week and Enterprise Education.

In June, 14 West Yorkshire teachers took part in an Teachers' "Industry Insight day" visiting Cummins Turbo Technologies, Huddersfield and the Novotel Leeds for a day's awareness raising, fact finding, materials development and guidance on use of languages for ASL. The RLN commissioned Katherine Smith, International Business Communication (NVQ Business Language Units) to assist with materials and briefing for this day.

## Sheffield Hallam University

**Sheffield Hallam invited nine Y11 pupils to a Showcomotion Festival this summer with the opportunity to write, shoot and edit a one minute film.**

The project targeted students in Y11 who were considering continuing with their language learning at KS5, aiming to provide them with an out of classroom experience that would help to bridge the gap between language learning at KS4 and KS5.

The three day programme was an intense one and on the first day began with a film workshop looking at Foreign Language Films and identifying non verbal clues that would reveal in which country each particular clip was set.

Storyboarding in the target language was followed up on day two with a Consequences storyboard, creating a beginning, middle and an end to a story in the target language. There was also a Grammar workshop – a journey in the past, looking at the past tenses, the endings and the different uses. A Film workshop investigated the reality of making a one minute film with opportunity to get film groups, identify roles for each member and create the storyboard for their film.

Day three was for Shooting and editing of the students one minute film. The students came from King Edward VII School and Brinsworth Comprehensive schools and each day up to four staff were present representing both schools and acting as specialist linguists. In addition, Geraldine Walker from the Showroom (Sheffield) led on the specific film workshop sessions.



The storyboard activity was in the target language and students stated that “trying to find translations was fun” and that it was a “good opportunity to mix” (students were mixed up into groups by language). Students also highlighted that they appreciated the numbers being small with a high ratio of staff to students.

University of Sheffield

Grill the student session  
by Sheffield pupils voted a  
big success

Another enthused: "The visit to the University was exciting. It was an excellent opportunity and the sandwiches were great."

The visitors enjoyed a full programme of events including a talk from Ruth Linden of the Regional Languages Network on languages and work. They also had the chance of a 'taster' of unusual foreign languages such as Russian and Korean. They made posters about why language learning is a great idea.

'We were all extremely impressed with Mr Edge's fantastic grasp of both the Korean and Russian language!'

York St John University



The students commented that they found the trip very motivational, and felt the tutors did a great job in making the workshops exciting, and how easy it was to pick up the basics in a short time. They even managed to sing old Macdonald had a farm in sign language!

## The University of York

York University has been providing a weekly route into languages for students at Fulford School with a lunchtime languages club. This has run from March until June and involves a group of 40 Year 8 and Year 9 pupils.

The aim of this was to inspire pupils to learn a language which they have not had the opportunity to take up at school, and to experience aspects of a culture which is very different to their own. The languages taught include Arabic, Mandarin and Japanese, and the club was run by native-speaker language tutors (Mrs Jenan Ali, Mr Xuhui Hu and Mrs Megumi Bailey) from York's Languages for All department. Mrs Esther Green, head teacher of Modern Languages, reported that "pupils really enjoyed the sessions and got a lot out of them". The tutors were delighted with the enthusiastic response of the pupils, their openness to learning about new cultures and their ability to master the basics of the language being taught.

In February, York University sent a group of Final Year German students to talk to pupils who were thinking of taking up German beyond GCSE. The students, all of whom had spent a year studying or working abroad, explained what they found inspiring about studying German at degree level, and talked about the varied career options which their degree course had opened up for them. The school reported very positive feedback again, and commented on how the enthusiastic presentations of the students had fired the imagination of the pupils.

The University also sent a group of students studying French, German, Spanish and Italian (either as their main degree subject or on an extra-curricular basis alongside their degree) to speak to Year 9 pupils and to encourage them to continue to study languages. The pupils participated actively in asking questions and showed that the visit had opened up some new perspectives and possible study/career options for them.



**The World in Your Region Competition received a number of fantastic entries. Judging took place in the summer and prizes will be awarded at the start of autumn term 2009 – 10.**

The winners were as follows:

### Year 7-9 Groups

- 1.) Wales High School – Group of 4 girls from Year 8 created a poster representing the cultural diversity of their community
- 2.) Lady Lumley's School – Group of 3 girls from Year 9 created a DVD showcasing the diversity of the local area
- 3.) Lady Lumley's School – Group of 3 girls from Year 9 created a painting to represent the restaurants from different parts of the world, found in and around Pickering

### Year 12-13 Groups

- 1.) Lady Lumley's School – Group of 2 girls and 1 boy created a short film entitled "Lady Lumley's School; Dull or Diverse" which highlighted the various nationalities found amongst staff and students at the school

## Forthcoming events

### Language Evenings for Families Yr 9 pupils and parents

September & October - organised by the University of Leeds

### European Day of Languages Yrs 10 -13

Language Carnival to discover language talents  
Organised by Leeds Metropolitan University  
28th September

### Languages for Life

Presentations and discussions for languages in HEIs For students in York and North Yorkshire  
Organised by York St John University  
16th October

For more information:

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

## 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)

## Research Projects

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

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

### Join our mailing list:

[routes@hull.ac.uk](mailto:routes@hull.ac.uk)

### By post:

Routes into Languages  
Yorkshire and the Humber Consortium  
Department of Modern Languages  
The University of Hull  
Cottingham Road  
Hull, HU6 7RX

Email: [routes@hull.ac.uk](mailto:routes@hull.ac.uk)

Phone: 01482 462091

Fax: 01482 466180



## Languages Company Briefing, June 10th 2009

This was the first event hosted by the newly established Links into Languages Regional Centre for Yorkshire and the Humber and it was well attended and participative in format.



Led by Dr Lid King, National Director of Languages and Kate Green, Senior Advisor to Links into Languages, both of The Languages Company, this briefing provided an update on the National Languages Strategy and will focussed particularly on:

- Primary and key stage 4
- The new primary curriculum
- KS4 performance indicators
- Changes to qualifications including the Languages and International Communication Diploma
- The Open School for Languages and will provide an overview of the newly launched, Links into Languages programme.

Over 25 people attended from a range of background, including teachers, Heads of Modern Languages, local authority advisers and a representative from the TDA. The session generated interesting discussions on some of the implications of the forthcoming changes to the curriculum and some of the opportunities which the New Diploma for Languages will present. The role of Links in supporting teachers and schools through CPD was presented. Lunch closed the event and offered further opportunities to network.

An exhibition of informative material from the International Resource Centre for Schools and Colleges (part of the British Council) was organised by Ray Kirtley, giving delegates an opportunity to explore a range of projects related to e-twinning and other cross-disciplinary activities as well as the Yorkshire and Humber Global Schools Association.

Further information about the latter can be found at

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/CES/staff/irc/yhgsa/index.html>