

Language Ambassadors

Profile



ALOYSE GASCOIGNE

Occupation: Lead teacher of MFL

Company: BACA Academy

Degree: French, Italian and European Studies

Languages spoken (native and learned): English, French, Spanish, Italian, German

“I believe that learning languages is all about communication. It enables opportunities and opens up a whole world of possibilities when travelling, at work or on holiday. It enables us to understand how different people are and how their language and countries’ traditions have played a part in this. You do not have to be fluent in a language, just open to new ways of communicating with others.”

Why did you decide to study languages?

“I spoke French at home (having French and Moroccan parents). I also studied German from the age of 3 (but not in the written form till much, much later). I realised I enjoyed helping others to learn and enjoyed studying books/films in French and the history of other countries, so choosing to study languages and European Studies at university seemed the right choice. At school, I studied A level French as I was part French and I had seen both my brothers do it and enjoy their course. Although I enjoyed studying languages, I did drop German after GCSE (as there were other options I preferred). I wanted to learn Arabic but fell in love with Italian after going on holiday there and so studied this at university. I had to learn Spanish due to my PGCE course and have continued to do so ever since.”

How has knowing another language had a significant role in your life and/or work?

“It has enabled me to learn about how to work with others and understand how people can be different due to cultures as well as personalities. It has meant that I got to live and work in France and Italy. Travelling became more exciting when I learnt to speak with the locals, as well as work abroad. I now teach how to learn languages to others too.”

What advantages does being a linguist currently afford you?

“As I have already mentioned, I feel that being a linguist means I can enjoy a wider range of films, books and cultures. When I go abroad I get to see a different side to the country and it gives me the opportunity to communicate with others.”

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