

Eurofest York Wednesday 10 June 2015

York St John Business School was delighted to host the first ***Eurofest York*** event on Wednesday 10 June 2015.

Developed by the Selby Modern Languages Forum, Eurofest is a simulated international trade fair for year 8 pupils. Its purpose is to encourage the active use of modern foreign languages and an understanding of the value of having language skills in a business.

This is the first time that York St John University has run a York-based version of the event. Having attended the Selby event and experienced the buzz in the hall, we were keen to offer a York version. It is very exciting to see how pupils meet the challenge of answering questions from people they have never met, with accents they are not used to, in an 'alien' environment. The trade fair scenario also shows them how the language skills they are learning in the classroom can be put to use in the real world.

Schools from all over Yorkshire registered an interest, but finally three schools attended: Queen Ethelburga's College (York), Saint Augustine's RC School (Scarborough) and Canon Lee School (York). Each school provided teams of pupils who manned trade stands in French, German or Spanish, promoting either a town or a product that they had devised.



Getting ready for the judges

Volunteer judges interviewed the teams and scored them on their use of language, response to questioning, selling power, creativity and customer service. There were also extra points available for 'wow' factor. At the end of the event, certificates were awarded to winning teams in a range of categories. Luckily, each school won at least one certificate!



The trade fair in full swing

In the afternoon, pupils took part in a carousel of activities including language tasters in Japanese and BSL, a general language quiz, and a campus tour with York St John student ambassadors.



Japanese



Language quiz



BSL



One of the winning teams.

Comments from staff included:

- *The event helped to build a lot of confidence.*
- *Practising the languages by looking after the customers was great + exciting.*
- *The judging session as key to the event was well organised with excellent response from students.*
- *Overall well organised, kept students busy throughout day, good timings.*
- *The children were able to experience other languages that our school don't offer and see how other schools work.*
- *The trade fair was very motivating and language workshops in different languages to those learnt in school were enjoyable.*
- *Our students benefited a lot from the teamwork activity and from having to present in the target language.*
- *More please! The students walked away very much enthused about languages.*
- *Thank you for organising it! Lovely to share good practice with you!*

Comments from pupils included:

- *I enjoyed this event. I strongly believe that I have learnt a lot today.*
- *Thank you for everything. I had fun on the activities especially BSL and Japanese.*
- *Sign language can help me not only socially but practically as well.*
- *Very interesting and I learned lots of new stuff.*
- *It was a great fun event.*
- *It was amazing.*
- *I hope that other people will enjoy this event as much as I did.*
- *It was good, we learnt things we didn't already know.*
- *I enjoyed the fact that all the other schools invited were civilised and the university we were at was beautiful with not everything all modern, and the people there are amazing and all students show respect which is lovely.*

A big thank you to everyone who helped to organise the event, and to Selby Modern Languages Forum for devising the concept.

Alison Organ, June 2015