



**Specialist
Language College**

Millthorpe School Language College

Languages News



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Language
College

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It's exam time again so I thought I'd use this opportunity to talk to you about KS4 languages. As you know, because we are a Language College, almost all students study a language at KS4 and about 60 - 70 students each year take 2 or even 3 languages at GCSE. We are very proud of this as it is very different to the vast majority of schools across the country; nationally, only 44% students study a foreign language at GCSE (this figure would be much lower if it didn't include students attending independent schools), and only a tiny proportion of these study more than one foreign language. Our KS4 language provision also means that our students are leaving with languages qualifications that are very much valued by employers. In the Centre for Business and Industry Skills Survey 2011, 73% employers said that they were seeking employees with conversational foreign language skills in order to strengthen existing trade partners and establish contacts in new markets. The survey also

showed that French and German are still the most requested languages (61% and 52% respectively), followed by Spanish 40%; Polish 29%; Mandarin 23%; Arabic 22%; Cantonese 22%; Russian 20%; Portuguese 17%; Japanese 15% and Korean 9%. We are delighted that this year, more Y11 students than ever before have opted to take A Level French and German next year and that our third language, Spanish, is growing steadily (48 Y8 students have taken after-school Spanish lessons this year and our first fast-track GCSE Spanish predictions are very promising indeed). We are also delighted to have been able to offer an Asset Intermediate or Advanced qualification in students' home languages and Advanced French modules for students who took their GCSE Listening and Reading exams early (see p3 for more details). Well done to all our KS4 students who have worked so hard to achieve their potential, both in languages and across the curriculum; we wish you all the very best for your future.

Language Leaders



A new team of Language Leaders was appointed on Wednesday 25 May 2011. The

enthusiastic Year 8 students showed how keen they are to work as a team, to develop new skills and to help others.

The Language Leaders will face new challenges this year as their role expands. As well as meeting and welcoming guests to the school (pupils, parents, teachers and international visitors), and helping out on Year 6 Open Evening, Year 7 Induction Evening and Parents' Evenings, this year Language Leaders will also participate in a variety of primary/secondary link projects

such as "Create a French Café in a day" with Year 5 pupils from Dringhouses and Poppleton Road primary schools on July 11. Next year they will be involved in setting up a new Year 7 languages homework club, and helping the school achieve its Fairtrade award.



**Mrs Oliver and Mr Stipetic interviewing
Mabel Goulden**

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in becoming Language Leaders: Imogen Rowley, Matt Power, Josef Malik, Tom Smith, Anna Goodyear, Niamh Harrison, Sarah Kirkman, Olive Mackay, Katherine Rawlings, Maisie Wilson, Lily Stone, Eve Nixon, Eliza Green, Nina Butterworth, Edward Chapman, Kyra Clarke, Rebecca Colley, Brittany Ellis, Laura Heyworth, Anna Hooper, Madeleine Svenson, Cameron Wild, Mabel Goulden, Catriona Thornton, Jessica Clarke.

Thank you to Mrs Christine Oliver (School Governor) and Mr Adrian Stipetic for shortlisting and interviewing the candidates.

Y8 French Trip 2011

At midnight, 7 April, French trippers met on Knavesmire road, with suitcases and pillows. As we loaded the coach, we said our goodbyes to our parents, and once we were rid of them, sweets were opened, headphones plugged in and we were raving on the coach to Dover. When the teachers said lights out, and we found out how to put the chairs back, we went to sleep.

On board the ferry, shopped, snacked and got seasick – but it was fun! The journey from Calais Port to Collège Lucien-Vadez



Outside the hotel

wasn't long, and when we got there we saw the school was very different to Millthorpe! We went to their library and interviewed some French pupils. We discovered that the French were Gleeks too!! Some issues with spelling though (Olly Murs became Oppy Mops) but we got past that! The lunch was free and better than what people made it out to be – especially the industrial sized whipped cream can! The journey to the Boulangerie Escoeuilles was quite long – once we were there we split into 2 groups and got shown how to make bread, and got some tasters of brioche or pain-au-chocolat which were yummy!! Arriving at Hôtel Les Sables d'Or was exciting, well dinner wasn't THAT exciting but getting room keys was!! The nights at the hotel were really fun, especially with roommates like ours it was so funny!

Breakfast was far better than tea, with mini croissants and chocolate cereal.

First we went to a sweet factory, where a French man showed us how to make jelly and boiled

sweets, which were so yummy! Then we bought bags of over-priced sweets, and headed over to the Sea Life Centre Nausicaa. The coach ride there was filled with fishy jokes, provided by Mr Stipetic and Mr Webb-Sear. We had lunch at a kids' play park and suddenly we were all acting like 3-year-olds on the swings and slides. The hotel provided lunch which included none of our five-a-day, but was good! In the Sea Life Centre, we looked for the elusive sea badger, but no-one found it. Afterwards we stopped back at the hotel to change into beach gear and headed to the beach. We couldn't go in the sea, but we dug a hole so it was fun! However some people went shopping with Miss Watts and Miss Hogan. Back at the hotel we had another delicious dinner and got to our room.

Next morning we went on a boat trip around St. Omer which was a village connected by small waterways which was interesting. Then we went on a long trip to La Coupole, an uncompleted WW2 bunker/dome, where we learnt about Hitler and rockets. Then we went to PLANET GO KARTING!! It was so much fun. Congrats to people who got really fast times like Maddie, Freya, Matt and Catriona... and well done to Mr Webb-Sear who beat everyone including the other teachers! On the way back we got people to sing on the coach microphone, including a lot of awesome songs by Yann, a lovely version of Amazing Grace by Nina, and some well-known Justin Bieber from Jess – well done guys!!

The next day we went to a really fancy chocolate factory, with really fancy tasters – yum!! Then a French man showed us how to make a chocolate rabbit, and we went to the shop. After that we went to a snail farm! It smelt really bad in the snail room, and a French man told us about the breeding and feeding.

Then we ate the snails!! There was snail pâté, snail cheesy things and snails with garlic! Most



Miss Hogan serves snails

of the boys polished them off with gusto! Next was St. Joseph Village which was a little model village with

houses and shops you could actually go into and two lovely ponies/horses/donkeys. Finally, time for bowling! We split ourselves into groups and started bowling. Some people got fences down the side of their lanes so the scores varied (not fair!), yet a particular well-done to Catriona



1950's kitchen at the Model Village

who beat Mr Webb-Sear! Then we had our final tea and did a quiz put together by the teachers! Thank you to L'Hôtel Les Sables d'Or for their hospitality.

On our last day, Tuesday, we went to the Hypermarket and we wondered around. This was great because we were all spending all our last euros! There was a supermarket in there which sold Haribo™ Smurfs. They were delicious, well worth it! Then Mr Stipetic paid for everyone to have an ice-cream of their choice. Then we got on the ferry back towards England – most people watched Tom & Jerry!

Thank you to Mr Stipetic, Miss Watts, Miss Hogan, Mr Mallen, Mr Webb-Sear, Mr Walton and of course our fabulous coach driver Roger for taking us. We had an amazing time and I'm sure anyone would recommend it! ☺

Mabel Goulden 8LMT
Laura Heyworth 8LMT

Celebrating our students' home languages



We are delighted that this year we have more bi-lingual students at Millthorpe than ever before. Some students have moved to Britain (or moved back to Britain) from abroad and some have grown up in York but speak another language, as well as English, at home. We believe that it is really important to celebrate this diversification and to look for opportunities for students to share their cultural differences with the wider school community, and we also believe that students should be able to take a qualification in their home language, wherever one exists. This month Kalandra Sullivan, Chandra Sullivan, George Timney, Tiffany Zanlith, Lucia Greatrex Toscano, Clara Williams Brinquez have taken their GCSE Spanish exams, and next month the following students will take Intermediate or Advanced Asset qualifications: Turkish (Kenan Altin, Huseyin

Akdag, Berfin Kavak); Arabic (Reman Sadani); Panjabi (Ruby Kaur); and Urdu (Ameena Khurshid). Next year we are planning to enter students for Polish, Arabic, Bengali, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese Chinese, Japanese, Italian, and we are looking forward to finding ways of students sharing these languages with their classmates. Here are 4 of our KS4 Asset home languages students.



Ameena Khurshid
11BJ
Intermediate
Urdu



Reman Sadani
10MWS
Advanced
Arabic



Huseyin Akdag
11DXS
Advanced
Turkish



Ruby Kaur
11CW
Intermediate
Punjabi

A fond farewell to Year 11

We were very sorry to say goodbye to our Year 11 students. They have been a wonderful year group and we wish them all the very best



for the future. The year group was packed full of keen linguists, including 70 dual and triple linguists and many are going on to study one, two or three (and even four!) languages at A level. 12 of the 26 students planning to

take French A level next year will be accompanying Ms Andrle and Mr Winston on our first Pre-A Level Paris trip 14 -18 July. Next month 10 students who took their French Listening and Reading exams early (all got A*) will be

taking Advanced Asset exams in French as a way of challenging themselves and bridging the gap between GCSE and A level. These students (Lottie Brown, Lawrence Cook, Charlotte Dearlove, Bill Herbert, Laurence Huntington, Rosa Ingleton Roberts, Louisa Mugeridge, Leah O'Cuinneagain, Ashley Poxon, Jenny Skaife, Bethany Wood) are pictured above with Ms Andrle and the rest of their French class.

Languages Blog goes from strength to strength ...



The Millthorpe School Languages Blog was introduced in March 2009. The blog has a variety of uses: revision, homework, information – and fun! The blog has had over 28,000 unique visits since starting (approx. 70 per day) and other schools from across the country have set up links to our

blog from their own websites. If you haven't yet checked it out go to: www.languagesatmillthorpe.typepad.co.uk or just google Millthorpe languages. If you are in Years 7 - 10 and want to really impress, why not look in

the Year 11 revision section for ideas on how to extend and improve your writing, or listen to the podcasts (recordings of our French and German foreign language assistants) for questions and model answers on a particular topic.

Conversation Classes for Parents

PARENTS ...

BAR
LANE
STUDIOS

Would you like to improve your French conversation skills? ... Or perhaps learn some Spanish?

From September 2011 we are delighted to be able to offer both **FRENCH** and **SPANISH** conversation classes for parents - taught by our native French and Spanish teachers, Valérie McNulty and Maria San Sebastian Blanco. The weekly classes will take place at Bar Lane Studios and will cost £5 an hour.

If you are interested in signing up, please e-mail June Moore, our Languages PA at j.moore@millthorpeschool.co.uk, letting her know which language you are interested in, whether you have any previous knowledge of the language and which days and times between 9.30 and 3.00 you can manage.

¡VENGA, ANIMENSE!

ALLEZ-Y!

Here's what parents from our first conversation group (January - July 2011) have told us about the classes:

"I do believe in the idea of schools being part of the local community. As Millthorpe School is a language school it makes perfect sense to cascade its skills and knowledge."

"The opportunity to practise speaking to each other in French has given me more confidence to do this on holiday. I hope the classes will continue. It has helped bridge a gap between parents and the school"

"The French for conversation classes have been extremely enjoyable, in a relaxed, non-judgmental atmosphere. Valérie has made it fun, she has been supportive and because she's French we get used

to the correct accent. Also we have learnt more about the culture in France, not just the language."



Mr and Mrs Terry learning together

"I'd just like to say how much I have enjoyed the French conversation classes. I was reluctant to sign up initially, thinking I'd be out of my depth and find it a bit overwhelming. How wrong I was, the lessons have been a delight, fun and relaxed but also stimulating and informative. Valérie has the unique ability of pitching the lessons at just the right level and we are so fortunate to have a native speaker who has worked wonders with our pronunciation. I do hope the lessons continue. I think it is fitting, given that Millthorpe is a specialist Language College, that they extend their facilities to a wider audience. It also gives a wonderful message to the students that learning is an ongoing process; my son is most impressed at my renewed interest in French. Thank you Millthorpe for giving me this wonderful opportunity."



Mrs Valérie McNulty helping with pronunciation