



**Specialist
Language
College**



Millthorpe School Language College Languages News

Summer Term

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Issue 1

Hello and welcome to our first Languages newsletter!



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As Head of Modern Languages at Millthorpe School I am immensely proud of our work in the Languages department – in lessons, of course, and outside of lessons; through our visits and exchanges, our Extended Learning Days, our Languages clubs etc. The Languages Department is a wonderful team to work with: 11 teachers, 1 specialist Higher Level Teaching Assistant, 2 Foreign Language Assistants, a PA and Resource Manager (both shared with All Saints) and a Departmental Assistant (who only works with us for an hour a day but without whom, we would struggle to cope!) - and all positive, creative, highly skilled and brimming with enthusiasm! It's a Head of Department's dream and it makes anything seem possible.

When I was Head of Modern Languages at Huntington School, I used to wonder about the extra activities run by Millthorpe and All Saints, York's two Specialist Language Colleges. I knew about the schools' involvement in Primary School Language teaching (which goes back 8 years) and about the ICT support provided

to all York Secondary Schools by Karen Harper, Language Colleges Resource Manager. I knew, too, about the Y9 Masterclasses in Modern Greek, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and British Sign Language, organised each year by June Moore, Language Colleges PA. But what I didn't know was how it would *feel* to be part of a Specialist Language College MFL department. This is what I would like to share with you in this, our first Specialist Language College newsletter: a taste of some of the Languages department extras that go on at Millthorpe and a feel for what it's like to be a part of a specialist Language College.

Our next Languages news will come in the end of year whole-school newsletter just before the Summer holidays. In the meantime, if you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, or with Miss Gray, Assistant Head of Modern Languages and Head of German. We are always delighted to talk to students and parents and we really value your feedback and your ideas for future projects.

WANTED!

**Year 8
students to
become
Language
Leaders in
Year 9. See
back page for
details.**



YEAR 8 FRENCH TRIP TO THE OPAL COAST 2010



At midnight on the 1st April, 43 Year 8 students and 6 teachers set off on a coach ride to Dover. After a long journey and a stop off at KFC at three o'clock in the morning, we reached Dover and boarded a ferry at about 7.30.

When we finally arrived in Calais our first stop was Lucien-Vadéz school. On arrival we tried to make conversation with the pupils. We then joined lessons which were difficult to understand as it was, but to add to this, some of the children were being taught Latin in French. Very confusing!

We then had a long coach ride, and sing-along to Hairspray, to a traditional boulangerie. We arrived in pouring rain and sprinted inside, welcomed by the smell of freshly baked Brioche. The baker gave us a brief demonstration of how he made his bread to the highest standard. The baker generously gave us each a small loaf of Brioche, which we enjoyed on the ride to see our hotel for the first time.

After an early night, we set off for a small traditional sweet factory. The man showed us how he made the sweets, and even got to have a go ourselves! Our next stop was the Nausicaá Aquarium.

We saw some amazing creatures in the huge aquarium including sharks, penguins and eels. The aquarium was particularly fun when you walked over some of the tanks, you realised that the floor was made of glass, and it felt like you could fall in at any moment!

We then went to Touquet, a small seaside village, and were given the choice of going into town or the beach. Everyone enjoyed the beach, and would happily have stayed longer.

On Sunday we got up at what seemed like the crack of dawn to go on a canal ride around a marsh. We then drove for a short

while to get to La Coupole, a world war two museum, set in an unfinished German bunker. We all learnt lots about the missiles that were planned to be launched by the Germans before they were fortunately sabotaged by the Belgians.

Then we moved on to hotly anticipated Go-Karting. Everyone was very excited and couldn't wait for their turn at the exhilarating sport. After their race everyone came out in high spirits, wishing they could have another go!

That night after dinner, we had a talent show, which people had been practising for. We were entertained by jokes, gymnastics from Becca Hussey, singing by Alice, Beth and Evie, and break-dancing from Tom Stubbs. We also witnessed an unusual and very unexpected display of talent from Joe Mitchell-Jones and Sam Welby, involving Joe singing and keeping a straight face while Sam slapped him across the face! And finally we saw a short but perfectly choreographed dance display from Mr Webb-Sear.

The next day we visited a chocolate factory and a snail farm. We were shown all the different snails, where they come from, and how the farm came about. We were also shown the pen where the snails are kept in the winter, and found out that rats are dangerous predators for the snails, and so to

protect his snails, the man had hired a little ferret called Albert!

At the end of the day we went bowling –

everyone got involved and enjoyed it very much.

Everyone, including some of the teachers, spent the last night dancing and singing to loud music in the lobby and our room! However we were only allowed to do this after we were completely packed and our rooms had been inspected.

We all loved the trip and say a big thank you to Mr Stipetic, Miss Hogan, Miss Watts, Mr Webb-Sear, Mrs Wright, Miss Kirby and of course our amazing coach driver, Jason, for taking us!

Kate Chapman 8RD



German Exchange 2010

When we arrived in Düsseldorf we received a very warm welcome from our German exchange partners, and then crammed into the bus for the short journey to the school in Stadtlohn. When we arrived at the school – even in the darkness of the night – we could see how clean it was, there was no rubbish to be seen! Then we met our exchange family and began our weekend as part of their family. We all

spent the weekend doing a range of different things, from theme park to sleepovers to crazy golf, and day trips to a neighbouring country - Holland! On Monday we all met up at the school and took a trip to the zoo, which was surprisingly good. We then went on to a huge shopping centre. The next day we spent with our exchange partners at their school and the following day it was time to leave. We spent

the morning at school and then had an indoor picnic/barbecue before we left because unfortunately the weather was like here – awful! Many tears were shed which I think proves how good many of us found the experience! Thanks to all staff involved in the organisation of the trip. It is something we will all remember in the future!

**Rose Andrews 9LD
and Hannah Fessey
9RP**



Farewell to the Language Assistants

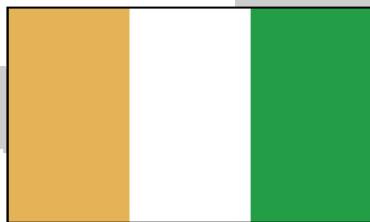


Language club was pleased to welcome German assistant Kai back at the start of this term.

World Cup sessions started straight after the Easter holidays and pupils learned lots about the French and German national football teams. They also learned more about French and German culture, national anthems, football songs and more.



World Cup sessions also focused on Africa - pupils learned about the six African teams that have qualified for the World cup; about their history, geography, music and African football. Three of the six qualifying countries are French speaking countries so pupils learned a lot about how widely French is spoken across the world. As South Africa is the host country, it was interesting to speak about it as well.



In the penultimate language club session we had a big World Cup quiz and pupils won some nice prizes. We ended the Language Club with a big goodbye party in the last session where we had German and French food and music and fun.

Au revoir

Goodbye

Tschüss



Languages Blogging Club

Languages Blogging Club started this year, with up to 10 people coming along each week to take part and make all sorts of different things to go on the Languages Blog!

(www.languagesatmillthorpe.typepad.co.uk, Google: Millthorpe Languages)

We started out by making Vokis (talking avatars, available for free at www.voki.com), with the club members finding it most amusing having something that they could make say whatever they wanted! We then moved on and spent a couple of weeks making cartoon strips using Toondoo (www.toondoo.com).



An example of a Voki avatar made by a member of Blogging Club



An example of a Toondoo comic strip made by a member of Blogging Club



More recently, we have been planning and starting to make animated cartoons using GoAnimate (www.goanimate.com), which will be on the blog before the end of the year. Go and check them to see what they look like – the club will continue next year, so it could be your cartoon on the Blog in a year's time!



Great homework - from parents!

In the spring term Miss Gray set the parents of her year 9 group a homework. Their task was to look at all the work their son or daughter had posted to our blog and comment on what they saw. We were really pleased with the time the parents spent on this and found that they looked at lots of other things on there too. We really hope that homework like this will enable parents to support their children through our blog during KS4.

Examples of parents' comments:

"Great idea, loved the work. Well done!"

"Excellent work. I like the way the blog is set out. The Mein Monster poster is an effective way to learn German."

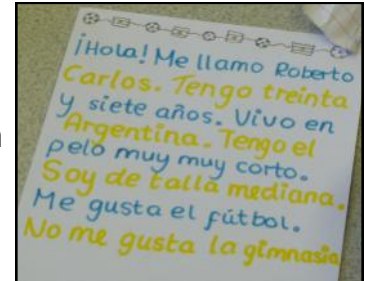
"A good piece of work and a great way to revise"

"Very good work. Keep it up".

World Cup Extended Learning Day 17th May 2010

Each form of Year 7 pupils represented one of the seven Spanish-speaking World Cup participating nations for the day. These are: Spain, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina and Honduras. They competed against each other in a variety of language tasks and sports matches with the aim of being World Champions by the end of the day.

An official draw was made in a World Cup Launch Assembly on 10th May, in which pupils found out the country that they would represent. They then had a week to research information on their country and learn Spanish in a series of three special Spanish language lessons leading up to the World Cup Day.



Pupils arrived on the day dressed in the colours of their country's football kit. In the morning they made impressive display work about their nation and wrote player profiles in Spanish about their country's finest football players. Points were awarded for the best work from the morning, which were then carried over to an afternoon of sports fixtures. Pupils represented their country in activities such as Ultimate Frisbee, Benchball, Dodgeball and Kwik Cricket, aiming to win games to add to their points score.

The two countries with the highest number of points scored over the day then qualified for the World Cup Final in the last twenty minutes. The full year group watched as Spain (7SW) played Mexico (7MB) in a girls and then boys 5-a-side football match on the field. Congratulations to Spain, who won a hard-fought contest 4-3. Well done 7SW, but well done also to all pupils who took part in an enjoyable day.

Mr Stipetic



HLTA Success!

Congratulations to Mrs Hickey who has recently been awarded Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) status. Mrs Hickey has been a specialist MFL Teaching Assistant at Millthorpe for 5 years and we are delighted that she has now progressed to HLTA status. She has been working closely with two classes (in years 7 and 8) this year as part of her training and has been increasingly involved in the planning and delivery of lessons with both these groups. HLTA status means that she can now teach whole groups completely independently and will add to the capacity and expertise of our current teaching team. Mrs Hickey has a BA Hons from Newcastle University in German and Swedish. She also speaks French and Spanish.



Mrs Hickey HLTA

Y9 Masterclasses 2010



The Language College Partnership of Millthorpe School and All Saints RC School funded the Year 9 masterclasses in Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Modern Greek and British Sign Language.

The masterclasses provided an opportunity for 50 students to work together with talented like-minded students from City of York schools and to try out new languages. They learnt greetings in each language as well as finding out about the culture and traditions of the countries. The British Sign Language course allowed students to communicate using British Sign Language signs and communication techniques.

The aim of the masterclasses is to build confidence and competence in language learning as well as to have fun experiencing new languages. The classes took place on five Saturday mornings during February and March. Activities included calligraphy in Japanese and Mandarin Chinese and learning how to use chopsticks.

"It was good fun learning to use chopsticks and also finding out about China and the Chinese language"



"I enjoyed learning the language and the culture of Japan as well as doing the calligraphy"



Primary Languages News



Mrs Donoghue

Millthorpe has developed a great relationship over the last 8 years with local feeder primary schools teaching classes from Y3 – Y6 and helping to prepare teachers to teach language lessons themselves across Key Stage 2 by September 2010. This has been thoroughly enjoyable work and has had a really positive impact on the way we teach Year 7.

This year 5 members of the languages department teach in primary schools. Between them, Mrs Donoghue, Miss Lupton, Mrs McNulty, Miss Ramsay and Miss Hogan teach Year 5 and Year 6 at Dringhouses, Acomb, Woodthorpe, Poppleton Road, Hob Moor, St. Paul's and Knavesmire primary schools. Mrs Donoghue is responsible for primary-secondary links and for KS2-KS3 transition. Mrs Donoghue and Miss Lupton are also both Regional Trainers for primary languages and are currently helping to develop and train primary teachers in a number of schools so that they can fulfil the 2010 primary requirements with confidence. Here at Millthorpe we are also busy developing our Year 7 scheme of work in order to take into account the rich and varied language learning experiences that many Year 7 pupils have encountered during their primary years.

Y9 Language Leaders

We are currently seeking enthusiastic students to become 'Language Leaders' within Millthorpe School. This is a new role that does not require a particular level of language knowledge, and it does not lead to a language qualification. However, it is an initiative that will be highly beneficial in terms of acquiring transferable skills that will be useful in higher education and beyond. If you are currently in Y8 and are creative, confident and keen to represent Millthorpe School by hosting local, national and international visitors within school, then this is a great opportunity for you. If you are interested in participating in this scheme you will need to attend a training session run by Miss Gray on writing a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and a letter of application. This will be held on Wednesday 9th June 2010 at 12.15 in the Language Lab. Remember to bring your lunch! Pupils will then be interviewed by a school governor and all successful Language Leaders will be mentored by Miss Gray throughout Year 9.

Language leaders' first assignment will be to create a new display in a central location in school to show-case best work from each year group in French, German, Spanish and Italian. It will then be Language Leaders' responsibility to change this display every half term so that all pupils in the school can share in each others' success and see the progress students make in languages throughout the year. Your second assignment will be to plan and rehearse a full guided tour of the school for groups of Y6 pupils and their parents, ready for Open Evening October 2010.

This is an opportunity to take your first steps on the career ladder and have fun along the way. We look forward to hearing from you.

Miss Gray and Ms Andrie



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