



**Specialist
Language
College**



Millthorpe School Language College Languages News

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Hello again!



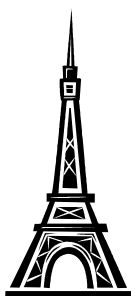
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Adult French Conversation Classes	1
Christmas Film Reviews	2-3
Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis	
Good Bye Lenin	
Miracle of Bern	
Valentin	
Les Choristes	
Visit by Collège Lucien Vadez	3
Language Laboratory Update	3
Extended Learning Day - Holocaust Memorial Day Workshops	4
Year 7 German	4

I hope you enjoy this term's Languages News. I'd like to take this opportunity to talk to parents about an area of the National Curriculum for Modern Foreign Languages that we'd like to develop: "listening, reading and viewing for personal enjoyment". This can bring huge rewards but under pressure of time and targets, it can often get squeezed. To address this, we used some departmental meeting time to plan ways of using more interesting authentic texts and film clips in lessons and to extend the range of 'extras' we offer: Every Christmas, we show our Year 8 triple linguists and all Year 9 and Year 10 French and German classes a film (see p2 for pupil reviews) and this year, Year 7 will watch Michel Ocelot's 'Kirikou' in the Summer term and Year 11 French classes will watch extracts from Laurent Cantet's controversial 'Entre les murs' ('Class') as part of their work on school. Next month we are planning to create a foreign films at City Screen noticeboard to encourage our pupils to

enjoy the wide range of films from around the world each month and to learn from the insights into different cultures these bring. Some Year 9 classes have been reading and then making French and German recipes and we plan to do more cooking next term (parent volunteers would be welcome to assist!) Reading food packaging in a foreign language is an easy way of developing reading skills. Finally, this week we are offering all Year 7, 8 and 10 pupils the opportunity to purchase a Mary Glasgow French, German or Spanish Magazine subscription (your son/daughter will bring a letter home if they (or you!) are interested in subscribing). We are also reminding pupils of the wealth of free reading material, as well as film clips and podcasts, on our Millthorpe School languages blog and Linguascope.com. Do get in touch if you have more ideas for how to get pupils "listening, reading and viewing for personal enjoyment". I'd love to hear from you...



HOLIDAY IN FRANCE WITH CONFIDENCE

As part of our Specialist Language College community outreach work, we are now running a weekly holidays-based French conversation class for adults. Every Friday from 1.30pm until 2.30pm, parents of Millthorpe School pupils (and some friends!) meet in the café at Bar Lane Studios, Micklegate, to improve their French speaking skills so that they can holiday in France with a renewed confidence.

The lessons are taught by Valérie McNulty, who is a French and German teacher at Millthorpe School and a native French speaker. Valérie has lived in the York area for 12 years. She trained as a secondary school teacher five years ago and



Adult French class at the Bar Lane Studios

previously worked for Borders book sellers where she also taught French conversation classes in the café.

The classes are friendly, fun and very relaxing – parents have a coffee and chat whilst learning practical language needed to travel and holiday in France. Lessons also give lots of insight into French culture. Here are some comments from our budding French speakers:

"Wonderful teacher! It is a great opportunity to learn French in a relaxed and non threatening environment"



"I am finding learning French from a native French speaker makes the language real and interesting"

"Great classes! I am planning to live in France so really enjoying the opportunity to learn French before I go"

The current class runs until Easter and funding permitting, we are hoping to continue classes next term. If you would be interested in participating in any future French conversation classes, please email millthorpemfl@hotmail.com before the end of March.

Mrs Moore

Christmas Film Reviews

Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis



Philippe Abrams is a manager of a postal service in the south of France. He has had a happy life with his wife and son in the beautiful sunny area of Salon-de-Provence, Bouches-du-Rhône, until he gets re-located to the 'disastrous' north-east of France for two years, as punishment for pretending to be disabled in order

doesn't like Antoine, but soon he starts to form a close bond with him. Through his friendship with Antoine, Philippe starts to realize that life in the north isn't as bad as it seems and that his own snobbish attitude toward the Ch'tis people was based on ignorance.

"Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis" is a compelling film that shows the contrasting cultures of different parts of France beautifully. It is comical, educational for French classes, and great to watch. When watching this film students get to learn about the French surroundings of different parts of France. Listening to French pronunciation really helps us with our own pronunciation ourselves. We just need to be careful not to start speaking Ch'tis in our next GCSE French Speaking Assessment!

Ruth Wedgebury 10VMC

to get a better job. Northern France, and the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region in particular, is considered to be a cold and rainy place. The "Ch'tis" who live there, are considered to be unsophisticated and they speak a dialect that is almost impossible for other people to understand. Philippe dreads the move and his prejudices are confirmed when he has to spend his first night with one of his new colleagues, Antoine, who shares his house with his overly-protective mother. At first Philippe

Good Bye Lenin



Good Bye Lenin is about a young man, Alex Kerner, who lives with his sister, Ariane, and mother, Christiane, in East Berlin. The family was abandoned in 1978 by the husband and father of the family when he fled to West Berlin. Christiane is a strong supporter of the ruling communist socialist unity party of Germany and she suffers a heart attack and falls into a coma after seeing Alex arrested at an anti-government demonstration. Shortly afterwards the Berlin wall is taken down and capitalism comes over to East Berlin.

sceptical, finally decrees that as good Socialists, they should open their home to these newcomers.

Christiane relapses shortly afterward and is taken back to the hospital. After meeting his father for the first time in years, Alex convinces him to meet Christiane again. Christiane dies peacefully two days later, three days after full official German reunification. The family scatter her ashes in the wind using an old toy rocket Alex had made with his father during his childhood.



Most students thought the film was excellent. The gripping storyline dragged us all in, and the directing and mis-en scene was superb. We would recommend this film because it is a great historical and cultural lesson, and it is very funny. It was also a great interest to us as students studying the German language!

Oscar Brooks 10DW & Jay Goodall 10LN

Miracle of Bern



Just before Christmas, we watched a German film called the Miracle of Bern. It is about an 11 year old boy called Mattias and it is set during the build-up to the 1954 World Cup. Mattias is adopted as a bag carrier and a mascot for the local football team by the top player Helmut Rahn. However his father, Richard, returns from a Soviet PoW camp and casts a dark shadow over his family. The local football team make it to the World Cup final



but Mattias' father won't let him go and support his team. After a lot of persuading, Mattias' father lets him go and cheer on his team. When Rahn sees Mattias on the side-line he shoots and scores

the winning goal to make Germany go on to win the World Cup.

I think this film is very interesting because it shows what life was like in Germany in the 1950s. It also shows

how the World Cup was won from a different point of view: normally films show what the spectators can see, whereas this film shows football from the players' point of view and how hard things can be. I do think this film is worth watching and think anyone interested in football would like it, as well as anyone wanting to improve their German.

Rebecca Hussey 9SYW

Valentin

In our last after-school Spanish lesson before Christmas, the two Year 8 Spanish classes went to the library for a big screen cinema experience... When I watched Valentin, I thought it was a very interesting film, with sad parts, happy parts and funny parts! The film was about a young Spanish boy called Valentin. It's all about his life, and his family. He lives with his grandmother and he has some very interesting neighbours, including one that Valentin particularly likes because he teaches him how to

play the piano. During the film he wonders whereabouts his mother is, and asks people lots of questions. It is very emotional at some points, but that's what makes it an excellent film! I would definitely recommend it, as it is very good and helpful for Spanish learners!

Amber Goodall 8SG



Les Choristes

Les Choristes is a film about an unemployed music teacher (Clément Mathieu) who finds a job as a music teacher in a boarding school for troubled boys. He is stunned by how harsh and strict the school routine is, particularly the extreme and largely ineffectual policies of the school's director. Mathieu is determined to show the school director that he can control a class and teach the students the power of music.



I would strongly recommend this film to all ages, especially people with a passion for music. I have a strong passion for music and I found this film inspirational. I found it quite funny and the music in it was exceptional. It is one of those films that can make you laugh and cry in a short space of time. This film shows you that anyone can do anything... you just have to work for it.

Daisy Black 9SYW

Visit by Collège Lucien Vadez

Staff and pupils from our partner school in Calais, Collège Lucien Vadez, visited Millthorpe School last week for their annual visit.

Mr Butterworth and Tom Dibbs (Year 9) welcomed our visitors with an introduction to Millthorpe School in French!

Year 9 Language Leaders and French pupils then interviewed each other to find out about life in each others' schools and the similarities and differences in each others'

school day.

The French pupils then went to lessons across the curriculum with Year 9 students, had a tour of the school and ate lunch in the school dining room.

Links with Collège Lucien Vadez began in 2006, and M. Rue and M. Dessoly are delighted to bring their pupils to visit Millthorpe School each year as part of Collège Lucien Vadez's annual week long visit to York.

The partnership continues to flourish with an on-going exchange of letters between pupils from each school. Some pupils have even exchanged presents with their correspondents!

As part of next month's Year 8 visit to the Opal Coast, Mr Stipetic, Miss Hogan and the Year 8 pupils will make a return visit to Collège Lucien Vadez when they arrive in Calais at the start of their trip. We look forward to telling you all about it in our May issue of Languages News.

Mrs Moore



Millthorpe students meet the French visitors from Calais



Language Laboratory Update



Year 7 German students using the Language Lab

The Language Lab has been a great success so far. Most classes are in there at least once every two weeks (we have made some swaps in order to prioritise Year 10 and Year 11 classes as they prepare for their controlled speaking assessments this term), and all classes have thoroughly enjoyed using it.

Especially enjoyable for the pupils seems to be the 'Telephone Conversation' function, where pupils are

able to dial up the person across the room they want to work with.

GCSE and Asset classes are finding the Lab very useful for practising their speaking assessment and improving listening exam skills, and Ms Andrie is holding a very well attended higher tier listening coaching session every Tuesday lunchtime for Year 11 pupils.

We have recently shown what the Lab can do with colleagues in other subjects and we hope that some will bring their classes to use the facility. We all look forward to continuing to learn more about all of the things that the Lab can do!

Mr Winston



Extended Learning Day - Holocaust Memorial Day Workshops



On 22 February 1943 21 year old Sophie Scholl was executed by the Nazis. Along with her brother Hans and a small group of friends she had dared to stand up to their regime by publishing and distributing leaflets that called for the German people to stand up to the criminal Nazi system.

As part of our Holocaust Memorial Day work on our 27 January Extended Learning Day, all Year 9 students took part in a workshop to find out about Sophie and her resistance movement "The White Rose". The activity was part of a series of lessons taught by the Languages, History and RE departments, exploring the causes and effects of the Holocaust. We learnt about Sophie Scholl's family background and watched part of a film adaptation of her story as well as looking at extracts from the leaflets that were published and distributed by her group. Finally, we all imagined ourselves as supporters of Sophie as she was awaiting trial by the Nazis and wrote to her whilst she was in prison. The letters are moving, poignant and speak for themselves:

"You took action yourselves and will not be forgotten. Not anywhere. Not by anyone" Alex Hill

"Do not be ashamed of what you have done. Always remember that you did the right thing" Anna Ward

"Don't think it was all for nothing . . . your country is forever in your debt" Brodie Doherty

"You should both be very proud. You are an icon and role model to everyone" Florence Poskitt

DIE WEISSE ROSE



"Do you know how inspirational you are?" Henry Andrews

"You will be remembered as heroes in the eyes of many families" Jacob Walker

"The selflessness and unbelievable courage you displayed made you a pivotal character during these times of hardship, and we can only mourn over the fact that you will never know" Kate Chapman

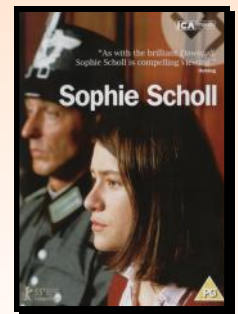
"You're an inspirational girl . . . people don't deserve to be living in awful conditions and you were speaking out for their freedom" Nessa Wilson

Our letters are now on display outside the Main Hall and I urge you all to take some time to read them next time you are in school – we are very proud of what our pupils have written

and the above quotations are just a small sample of the excellent letters they produced.

To find out more about Sophie Scholl please see our MFL blog at

www.languagesatmillthorpe.typepad.co.uk or speak to our Year 9 pupils.



Miss Gray - Head of German

Year 7 German

Our Year 7 pupils have now started to learn German as their second modern foreign language and I am delighted with the enthusiasm that has been displayed so far! Pupils started off by researching what they could about the German language and culture and came up with some amazing facts! I have posted a copy of our cultural awareness PowerPoint presentation to our MFL blog; www.languagesatmillthorpe.typepad.co.uk, please look at it with your son and daughter and let them talk you through what they have found out! Since then they have been rapidly learning lots of new

vocabulary and they can already say lots about themselves. Finally, I am delighted with the efforts made by our current Year 7 to cover their books with a wide variety of cultural information, to keep their books both practical to use and visually attractive.

Here's a great example.

Viel Spaß! Miss Gray

