



**Specialist  
Language College**

**Millthorpe School Language College**

# Languages News



**Autumn Term**

**October 2011  
Issue 5**



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>Pre-A Level Paris Trip</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Y9 German Exchange</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>New teachers in the Languages Department</b>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>Our French &amp; German Assistants &amp; Y7 Language Club</b>	<b>4</b>



In the last week of the Summer term, Mr Winston and I had the pleasure of leading Millthorpe's first pre-A Level trip to Paris. The trip was for Year 11 students who had chosen to continue French into Year 12 and the aim of the visit was to give students confidence in using their French to travel independently and on a budget in French speaking countries, and of course, to enjoy spending time in one of Europe's most beautiful cities.

I had wanted to inspire the students to take advantage of the fantastically cheap (and environmentally friendly) European rail travel available to young people, so we travelled by train from York to London (just under 2 hours) and by Eurostar from London to Paris (just over 2 hours). From the Gare du Nord, we walked to our hotel- a steep climb up to Montmartre, an area of Paris famous for its artists, its windmills and its village-feel. The hotel was as basic as we expected, but our street- Rue des Abbesses- must be the prettiest and liveliest and friendliest in the whole of Paris... We loved spending time

there in the evenings, eating ice cream, shopping and going to the cinema.



Our schedule was pretty packed as we wanted to see all the most beautiful sites during our four days. We climbed the Eiffel Tower, went on a boat trip up the River Seine and visited the Musée d'Orsay, Pompidou Centre, Arc de Triomphe, Sacre-Coeur, Notre Dame, the Marais district and the Latin Quarter. We ate a picnic lunch in a different Paris park or square each day and we ate in a different cheap restaurant each evening. The students had a fantastic time- all of them want to visit Paris again and some of them are planning to return to Paris together next Summer. Mr Winston and I also had a great time and we are already looking forward to taking students in this year's Year 11 on our second pre-A Level Paris trip next July.

**Tania Andrie  
Head of Modern Languages**

## Y9 German Exchange June 2011

On 15 June, 20 pupils from Millthorpe travelled to Germany to complete the German Exchange by visiting their partners in and around the area of Stadtlohn. We arrived at around 8.30pm local time, and had about an hour's coach journey back to the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium (our partner school) to be picked up by our host families.

On Thursday we spent the morning in the German school, meeting lots of German people and experiencing what their lessons were like. In the afternoon some of us went into Stadtlohn and had ice cream in one of the ice cream parlours there.

Friday was the day of our big outing – we went to Duisburg zoo, followed by a huge shopping centre. The

weekend was spent with our host families – I went to see my exchange partner's football team play. They drew 1-1 to win their league, so wild celebrations followed! On Sunday, most of the people involved in the exchange got together and went to 'Movie Park', a brilliant theme park with many rides. We got a great taste of German culture that day, and heard a lot of German being spoken. We even managed to fit in going swimming once we got home, although my exchange partner managed to chip his tooth in the pool!

On the Monday (after my exchange partner had been to the dentist!), we were in school again, this time in English lessons, where we were asked to help out. Then, after going home to get all of our stuff, we went back



into school for a farewell BBQ in the school's garden. It was very emotional, as it was the last time many of us would see each other. As we left, many tears were shed.

The German Exchange was a great experience, where we all had the opportunity to meet new people, eat new food, and discover a completely different culture. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is considering taking part next year, and I for one would love to see all of this year's German Exchange partners again!

**Owain Atkin 10KYB & Owen Coughlan 10CXB**

# A big welcome to new teachers in the Languages Department ...

## Maria San Sebastian Blanco (Spanish/French teacher)

### Where did you grow up?

I was born in Zaragoza, a city in the east of Spain, and grew up in a beautiful town called Salamanca, in the mid-west. I have only lived in the UK since October 2008.

### What did you study at University?

I studied Translation and Interpreting at the University of Salamanca, back in Spain. It was really challenging but also good fun. I got to spend six months living and studying in Brussels – the dream of any translator, with all the European Union institutions there! I also chose to do more interpreting modules and spent lots of time at home preparing for my exams trying to interpret whatever was on television at the time. It sounded like I was talking over the telly, but in another language! My

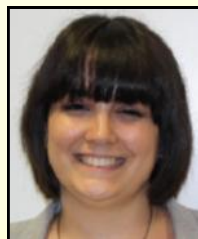
family thought I was going crazy!

### How many different countries have you visited?

Many! I've been really lucky and have worked in different countries and now have friends and family all over the world. I have been to Sweden working as volunteer interpreter, to Italy and the USA visiting friends. I was the first person from my family to go to Argentina after my grandma's family immigrated to Spain from there when she was a little girl. Hopefully, my next trips will be to Japan, where my cousin lives now, or to Australia, where my best friend is going to live for a year and a half.

### How many languages can you speak?

I can speak Spanish, English, French, Italian... and I even studied a year of



Romanian!

### How have different languages helped you when you have been travelling?

Being able to go to a different country, meet new friends, and do new things, all in another language, it's such a fantastic feeling. In fact, when I've been to Sweden or Germany where I don't speak the language, I get a bit frustrated because I need help! Sometimes, you also need your languages for less nice things. For example, when I was 18, I was robbed on a night train going from Nice to Barcelona and had to speak on the phone to the police. They didn't speak Spanish or English so I had to explain what had happened in French and managed to get help... and my camera back! If I hadn't studied French at secondary school I wouldn't have been able to get any help that day.

## Kirsty Burden (German/French teacher)

здравствуйте!

### When did you start to learn languages?

I first started to learn French, German and Latin when I was in Year 7. I really enjoyed learning languages from a young age, although I found Latin quite difficult and I was quite shy. German was my favourite because my nan is German and I had the opportunity to practise with her at home. I also found German history interesting because I knew that my nan had lived through it.

I went on any exchanges and trips that I could when I was at school and I was lucky enough to visit Salzburg, Düsseldorf, Québec and La Rochelle during my school years.

### Which languages do you speak?

I speak French, German, Russian and obviously English. I studied French to A-Level and have a degree in German and Russian which I completed at the University of Leeds.

### Which foreign countries have you lived in?

I lived in Moscow, Russia for a year when I was nineteen and I lived in Leipzig, Germany for six months during my university studies. I really enjoyed my time in Moscow. I lived with a Russian babushka and studied at Moscow State University. I also taught English in the evenings. I fell in love with Russian culture, architecture and literature.

I lived in University halls in Leipzig. Leipzig is a beautiful city, full of friendly people and efficient, punctual and cost effective modes of public transport. I hope to go back there in the future. I worked in a call centre and continued my language studies at the University of Leipzig. During my stay in Germany, I also went to meet more of my German relatives for the first time and stayed with them where my nan grew up in Paderborn.

### What do you like about living abroad?

I love to live abroad because, all of a sudden, even the smallest thing becomes interesting. The study of foreign languages and cultures has so much to offer and you never stop learning.

спасибо за внимание!



## New Russian Club!

Open to all Year groups

When? Tuesday (starting after half term)

Time? 12.30 - 1.00

Where? A5

Learn all about Russia, Russian language and Russian culture.

Meet Russian speakers from Millthorpe!

## Charlotte Booth (French/German teacher)

### Where are you from?

I grew up in a village called North Ferriby, which is near Hull. My parents still live there and I go to visit them when I can.

### What was your favourite subject in school?

I really enjoyed languages at school. They were by far my best subjects, especially if you compared them to Maths! No surprise I ended up being a language teacher really!

### What was the first foreign language that you learnt?

French, which I started in primary school. However, I could already speak some French because I used to go on holiday with my family to Brittany, and by the time I was about 8 I knew all the ice cream flavours in French - very useful! I started learning German in Year 8.

### What did you study at University?

I studied French and German at Warwick University, which I really enjoyed. I got the chance to learn about the cultures of the countries as well as studying the actual languages. For example, I took classes about history, politics, literature and film - it was a very

interesting degree! I also got to spend a year abroad in France, as a language assistant in a French school near Metz, and studying at Düsseldorf University in Germany.



### Have you visited many countries?

I've seen a lot of Europe! Obviously I've lived in France and Germany, but I also spent a summer working as a holiday rep in Greece. When I left university I spent 3 years living in Dublin (Ireland) and working for Google which was a lot of fun! I also spent a few weeks learning Spanish in Valencia, and I've visited Italy, Holland, Belgium, Austria, Turkey and Luxembourg. Apart from that I've travelled a bit around Central and Eastern Europe (Poland, Croatia, Czech Republic and Lithuania), and as for the rest of the world, I've only been to Florida in the USA and Cuba, which was an amazing trip.

### Is there any language that you wish you could speak?

I'd like to improve my Spanish so that I can speak it to a good level, and I'd really like to see more of Latin America. I'd also like to learn more Polish - it's a very hard language to learn and I like a challenge!

## Katie Bell (German/French teacher)



### Where did you grow up?

I was born and grew up in sunny, sunny Scarborough! I have always wanted to live in York, but I do get moments where I really miss being close to the sea and the taste of proper fish and chips!

### What was your favourite subject in school?

Languages, Art and Textiles! I can't pick which and I never could. I loved the creativity of Art and textiles and I really loved the "code cracking" of languages - German in particular.

### What did you study at University?

I chose to study German and Italian at Hull University. It was absolutely fantastic and I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the culture and fascinating history of Germany. As part of the course I got to spend a year in Germany and Italy which was amazing. I worked at a secondary school in Germany teaching English and I went to the University of Bologna in Italy where

I studied at the school for translators and interpreters.

### How many different countries have you visited?

Difficult question! I have seen a fair amount of Europe through travelling and holidays with friends (France/Bulgaria/Switzerland/Spain/Austria/Slovakia/ Czech Republic and Iceland) and of course I lived in Germany and Italy. Outside of Europe I have also been to Jamaica (which was amazing!) and New York. However, one of my goals in life is to visit every single continent, so I still have a fair way to go!

### How many languages can you speak and how have different languages helped you when you have been travelling?

I speak German, Italian and French. I also have some basic conversational Spanish which I have found really helpful when on holiday. I surprised myself (and my friend) by being able to complain (for at least 10 minutes!) in a clothes shop about some faulty shorts in Spanish last year using my basic knowledge of Spanish and helped by my Italian. My other languages have helped me so much when travelling but most importantly, speaking them has enabled me to meet and get to

know some of my closest friends.

### Is there any language that you wish you could speak?

Swiss German. Alright - so this isn't technically a written language with standard grammatical features I could study/learn. There are so many different Swiss dialects which are so incredibly different to the standard German language and when I hear them they really make me smile! I'd love to be able to speak one - I absolutely love strong accents and dialects and one of my close friends is Swiss German.

### Does anyone else in your family speak more than one language?

Although no one in my family has studied languages they all try to learn phrases before going on holiday and enjoy trying them out. My mum knows quite a bit of random German and Italian from helping me to learn vocabulary for exams throughout school, college AND university. I'm also convinced that the family tortoise and the hamster I had in college, Monty, spoke very good German (and in later years some Italian) after listening to me practising for speaking exams over and over again!

... STOP PRESS ...

Language club has just

started for Y7s ...

Willkommen!

Bienvenue!

## THE LANGUAGE CLUB IS BACK!

With Isabella & Sarah (our German & French assistants)

Mondays  
Room A3  
12.30 - 13.00

### >> OCTOBER

10<sup>th</sup>: Getting to know Isabella and Sarah



17<sup>th</sup>: Halloween in France

31<sup>st</sup>: Halloween in Germany



### >> DECEMBER

5<sup>th</sup>: Christmas in France

12<sup>th</sup>: Christmas in Germany



### >> NOVEMBER

7<sup>th</sup>: Stereotypes

14<sup>th</sup>: A school day in Germany & France



21<sup>st</sup>: Famous people in Germany

28<sup>th</sup>: French comics



### Sarah Metrat - French Assistant

#### Which is your favourite city in France?

My favourite is my home city, Lyon, because it's not as big as Paris but it's nice, it's easy to get to the sea, and there are some great places to hang out in the city centre.

#### What sport do you like?

I do many sports and I like all of them! I'm particularly interested in tennis. This summer I worked at the Roland Garros Open French Tournament, which is a bit like Wimbledon, in the stringing centre. I was delighted to meet Andy Murray, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and even John McEnroe!

#### Who is your role model?

I don't have one, but I admire lots of people.

#### How much did you know about York before you came?

I didn't know very much, but this summer before the start of term I came to York with my mother and sister. It's a nice, lively place.

#### Tell us a bit about yourself

I'm 20 years old. In France I'm studying communication. I'm here to improve my English and to help Millthorpe students improve their French!

#### Have you ever been to the Eiffel Tower?

Yes, sure. It's a very long way to the top, but you get a beautiful view of Paris!

Sarah was interviewed by Luke Yates 9VLT & Jozef Malik 9VLT



### Isabella Balla - German Assistant

#### Tell us about yourself

I'm 24 and I'm studying German and English to become a teacher.



#### What is the difference between schools in England and schools in Germany?

There are huge differences after the 4th grade. Your abilities decide which school you go to.

#### What are your favourite things?

Hanging out with friends, drawing, cinema, reading and cooking.

#### What is your favourite English food?

Chicken tikka masala!

#### Do you think English is an easy language to learn?

It's much easier than German! English and German vocabulary is similar.

#### Do you do any sports?

I really like running. I don't watch sport on TV, I much prefer being active and getting involved.

#### Do you have any brothers or sisters?

I have a younger sister, Stephanie, who is studying social work.

Isabella was interviewed by Joseph Bateson 9FFD & Holly Molloy 9SEW