Embedding the Languages specialism across the school

Wednesday 10 February 2010

Rachel Hawkes, AST, SSAT Lead Practitioner
Assistant Principal, Director of Language College and Staff Learning
Comberton Village College
Email: rhawkes@comberton.cambs.sch.uk
Phone: 01223 262503 ext.222
Community Cohesion is:

‘Working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and the wider community.'

Guidance on the duty to promote community cohesion, Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2007
Key concepts

- Community in which all belong
- Diversity is valued and celebrated
- Opportunities for all
- Strong, positive interrelationships

Cohesion is: Unity in Diversity
Contexts for Cohesion

• Curriculum
• Teaching & Learning
• Extra-curricular opportunities
• International links
• Inter-school working (including primary liaison)
• Adult learning
• Community partnerships
“We see the learning of languages as a skill for life and a fundamental part of a broad and balanced curriculum for our young people as future global citizens. We want to strengthen the teaching and learning of languages within our own school, but also for people of all ages within our local community and in the wide network of schools with whom we work.”
“We recognise and celebrate the linguistic diversity in our school, British society, and the rest of the world, and accord all languages status and value. We draw upon the expertise of our school community wherever possible and our teaching resources and displays reflect our openness to linguistic and cultural diversity. Students who speak languages other than English are encouraged to use and accredit them wherever possible. We offer support to students who are in the earlier stages of learning English.”
**Community**
Parents into lessons
Spanish for Parents
International Talent Evening
Exchange concerts/events
Language learning

**Adult learning**
ALL Cambridgeshire
CPD Network
(email/blog)
Teacher visits
Language learning

**Curriculum & Teaching & Learning**
Intercultural Understanding PoS
Knowledge of other cultures
Appreciation of diversity
Transferable skills – memory
Cross-curriculum links

**Extra-curricular opportunities**
CULP French, German & Mandarin
Competitions & awards
Language Leaders
Accreditation of home languages

**International links**
Exchanges & trips
Project work
Communication
Teacher visits
International Schools Award

**Inter-school working**
Linked Up project
AST in-school support
Primary teaching & learning
Primary liaison projects
Teaching skills: memory matters

- Only subject to address memory explicitly
- Opportunity to engage all learners at key stress times
- Opportunity to engage parents actively and empower them
- Whole school impact raises profile of languages
Teaching skills: memory matters

- Assemblies
- Revision sessions
- Parents Evenings
- One-off ‘Sounds of Spanish’ session
- ‘Support your child’ booklets
- Memory lessons built into year 7 SOW
Hay una espiral muy grande y de color violeta.

2) Hay una estrella bastante grande y amarilla.

3) Hay un punto bastante pequeño y de color rosa.

4) Hay un triángulo bastante fino y azul.

5) Hay un ojo bastante grande y rojo.

6) Hay un ovalo muy pequeño.

7) Hay un círculo realmente grande.
Mi zapatos de baile son de Inglaterra.

Mi maple syrup es de Canadá.

Mi camisa es de Morocco.

Mi libro es de Francia.

Mi IPOD es de China.

Mi pulóver es de Paquistán.

Mi pantalón es de Mongolia.

Mi escritorio es de los Estados Unidos.

Mi vestido es de Salvador.

MI MUNDO
1.2 Cultural understanding
Exploring how ideas, experiences and emotions are conveyed in a range of music from different times and cultures.

1.3 Critical understanding
1. Engaging with and analysing music, developing views and justifying opinions.
2. Drawing on experience of a wide range of musical contexts and styles to inform judgements.

1.4 Creativity
1. Using existing musical knowledge, skills and understanding for new purposes and in new contexts.
2. Exploring ways music can be combined with other art forms and other subject disciplines.

1.3 Creativity
1. Using familiar language for new purposes and in new contexts.
Using imagination to express thoughts, ideas, experiences and feelings.

1.4 Intercultural understanding
Appreciating the richness and diversity of other cultures.
British Airways closes in on Iberia merger to bring world closer for their customers.

British Airways e Iberia alcanzan un acuerdo de fusión.
“I am just in awe of the energy and ideas that have gone into this. Linking it with the website, as well as allowing it to be an organic idea, is just a stroke of genius, and one which will be welcomed with open arms throughout the language teaching community. Well done to all concerned and very many thanks. One of my best buys!”
Student Leadership: a ‘no brainer’

Year 7
Discovery

Year 8
Apprenticeship

Year 9
Training

Year 10
Leading
Celebrate and publicise success as much as you can!

Learning to lead and leading to learn

How language students develop leadership skills

Rachel Hawkes, SSAT lead practitioner at Comberton Village College in Cambridgeshire, reports on a joined up approach to developing leadership and language skills.

Student leadership is one of the whole-school themes that reaches across the Every Child Matters agenda, student voice and citizenship. The strategies used at Comberton Village College involve initiating year 7 into leadership in a small way, extending skills in years 8 and 9 and culminating in the full Language Leaders Award in year 10.

In year 7, students were asked to prepare mini lessons in Spanish to teach our South African exchange students from Edendale. Both English and South African students were given the brief to prepare short learning activities to teach some of their language (and cultural) knowledge to the other group.

In year 8 we gave students the opportunity to prepare, plan and deliver the learning for year 6 lessons on intake day. They were involved from the earliest stage, deciding on a carousel of four learning activities to build memory, pronunciation and confidence. Year 6 students will get further opportunities to use technology to produce video and audio for primary learners and to visit primary classrooms. Last year, 18 students from year 10 completed the Language Leaders Award. The programme involved lunchtime sessions with a languages teacher, where students learnt and practised the skills involved with leading learning in a classroom, and prepared language lessons to teach in the local primary schools.

Students at all levels of the leadership programme are enjoying the challenge of using their foreign language for a real communicative purpose. Research shows that we retain what we have learnt much more effectively if we use it actively to teach others. The language leaders who prepared and delivered sessions needed to think very hard about the language they wanted to include, ensure its accuracy, and practise the pronunciation and intonation until it was good enough to teach to others.

Primary teachers and pupils alike have been delighted with the year 8 and 10 leadership activities, and colleagues believe that it aids transition enormously.

You can contact Rachel to find out more by emailing practitioners@ssattrust.org.uk

Laughing and learning

STUDENTS from six schools participated last week in an inter-school comic strip competition as part of a national initiative to encourage language departments to work together regionally to promote language teaching at Key Stage 3. The programme, called Strategic Learning Networks, involves language teachers from a designated group of schools devising their own projects, plans and objectives, meet shared objectives and priorities identified by the teachers themselves.

The Comic Strip competition was the aspect of the work and involved students from the schools using a range of different media and applications to

Record numbers on flagship programme

YEAR 10 Language Leaders are currently working on the lessons that they will deliver in primary schools during the summer term. There are more than 40 language leaders this year, the biggest ever number, and the range of languages on offer is impressive: Spanish, German, French, Mandarin and Japanese.

This year’s language leaders will be teaching a range of topics including the alphabet, everyday phrases, animals, numbers, countries and continents, dates and family.

We look forward to their successful completion of the award in the summer.

This programme has become a flagship venture for Comberton Village College and is drawing interest from schools all over the country.

At The Languages Show in Olympia in November Director of Language College Rachel Hawkes was asked to speak about this project as well as the CaPE International course.

At the end of the month, she will be sharing the information at the Flying High Conference in Leicester.
Developing a global outlook

WELCOME to our new publication, Language@CVC. We are delighted to be able to launch this to join our current journals of Novelties@CVC and Sport@CVC, which are produced with the help of students. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this first edition. Now we are a Language College, we are here to be able to share the various exciting developments that are happening in that institution. Language@CVC is a way for us to do this. It shows the many ways in which we hope to continue to develop the language and international outlook of Comberton Village College to allow all students the opportunity to develop into global citizens. I hope you enjoy the contents.

Stephen Munday, Principal

The Languages College magazine of Comberton Village College
ISSUE ONE, OCTOBER 2006

LINGUISTICS TO LEAD THE WAY

COMBERTON has launched a new award for linguists.

Building on the success of the Youth Leaders’ Award, the Language Leaders’ Award seeks to develop generic leadership skills in the context of teaching a foreign language. Like the Youth Leaders’ programme, it is being run by the Comberton Youth Trust and will have its first launch in autumn this year.

In order to receive a certificate, pupils will need to complete a two-hour online course, cover language learning in schools and demonstrate their leadership skills.

Awards will be presented at a special ceremony at the Cambridge Union. All pupils who have reached Year 9 or above will be eligible to apply.

The award scheme will be run by the British Council Language Network.

Dr. Maudie Robinson, Head of Languages, said: “We’re delighted to see this new award launched. It’s a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop leadership skills and at the same time have a real, meaningful context for using their language skills.”

The scheme will run in schools across the UK and will be open to pupils from Year 9 and above. The scheme will be run by the British Council Language Network and is supported by the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Award for languages programme

The Cambridge University Language Programme, which has been running since 1999, has won a prestigious award.

One of the best teaching in Spanish, which is part of the programme, the Year 9 pupils at Comberton, and the other was the 2006 European Award for Languages.

They were presented with the awards last month at a special ceremony at the British Council on the International Day of Languages. The award is presented to the best educational achievement in a language and is open to all pupils from Year 9 and above.

The winning pupils were selected from a range of entries across the country and were presented with their awards at a special ceremony at the Cambridge University Language Programme, which is part of the programme.

Director of Languages Rachel Hawkes was invited to the ceremony.

The Language Leaders’ Award is a unique opportunity for pupils to develop leadership skills and at the same time have a real, meaningful context for using their language skills.
Links to national award schemes for languages

Free Spirit
National Poetry and Song Competition 2009

European Award for Languages 2009
Winner

international School Award 2007-2010
International Schools Award

Modellschule & Gesamtschule Obersberg
Bad Hersfeld, Germany

Collège Pierre de Fermat
Toulouse, France
Lycée Jean Jaurès
Limoges, France

IES Emilio Alarcos
Gijón, Spain

Anna van Rijn College
Nieuwegein, Holland

Instituto Lord Byron
Arequipa
Perú

Edendale School
Gauteng, South Africa

Escola Secundaria do Noroeste 1
Maputo, Mozambique

Institut Ramon Muntaner
Figueres, Spain
Deutsch-englische Harmonie
Musiker der Werratalschule und des Comberton Village College spielten und sangen gemeinsam

Von Jan C. Eisenberg


HINTERGRUND

Gäste der Obersberg-Schüler

Die 22 Schülerinnen und Schüler mit ihrem Lehrer vom Comberton Village College in der Nähe von Cambridge sind eine Einladung.

Audience crowd in for CVC show

IT was early December when the rather large group consisting of Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students departed from Comberton to participate in this year’s German exchange.

Some of the group members took part in this adventure to rehearse Academy of Death songs in Germany with the German students who will take part in the joint Anglo-German production of the musical, written by our very own Geoff Page, in England in June and in Germany in July.

The other half took part to improve their German language skills and for the cultural experience of a German exchange.

While we were there we all went to lots of German markets, a castle and took part in a concert.

In the concert we sang lots of songs and got a huge audience. They took a wall down so that more people could watch and listen to the Comberton students performing.

On the second to last day we had a little get-together party and we all sang Christmas carols.

When it was time to come back home again there were a lot of tears and also lots of happy memories to bring home with us. We made lots of friends and can’t wait until the exchange students come here in March!
Partnerschaft im Gepäck

Zusammenarbeit zwischen Obersberg-Schulen und dem englischen Comberton College

Concert double for partner band

Last term Comberton welcomed a visit from the German Brass Ensemble from our partner school Modellschule Obersberg, Bad Hersfeld, Germany.

The 24-strong group performed two concerts here during their five-day stay; one was a joint concert with the renowned Prime Brass ensemble in St George’s Church, Milton Road, Cambridge, and the other took place in the Performance Hall and was a joint concert with some Comberton student soloists.

This visit was part of our ongoing partnership with the school that will see us stage a joint production of the musical Academy of Death in June in England, in Germany in July and in Edinburgh in August (see Page 8).

During their stay, as well as their concerts, the group took part in a full programme of visits, including Cambridge, Mountfitchet Castle and London. Clearly, such exciting opportunities rely on goodwill and generosity on both sides and we were very grateful to the parents who hosted the ensemble musicians for the five nights of their stay with us.

Singing together

PLANS for the Primary Spanish Singing Gala, which won a regional Specialist Schools and Academies Trust Innovation Project Award earlier this year, are proceeding apace.

The project aims to bring together all Year 6 students from the five feeder primary schools on Friday July 10 for a massed singing event. Students in the schools are beginning to learn the Spanish songs that they will perform all together and, as the morning of the event, they will also learn one of nine different Spanish songs to be performed by Year 7 music groups,selected and coached by language teachers from Years 5 and 6.

The Spanish Singing Gala will be an absolute hit with parents, guardians, students and local people, event open to all members of the community.

All systems go

With some anxiety last term we awaited the outcome of our bid for funding from the British Council for an Anglo-German Joint Curriculum Programme Award.

Naturally, we were delighted to be awarded the role of leading partner in the initiative, which is funded for three years, with a budget of approximately £100,000.

It was a unique opportunity to work with our German colleagues and to develop curriculum projects that are delivered by both English and German teachers.

The first phase of the project, which has recently concluded, involved setting up a pilot programme for Year 7 students at Obersberg and Comberton College.

The second phase, which began in September, is focused on key stage 4 students and involves the development of an English-German bilingual project.

This project is an excellent example of the kind of collaboration that is possible between schools in England and Germany, and it is one that we hope to continue for many years to come.


Dann dürfte es Ehren-
Parents observing language lessons
The sounds of Spanish

A one-hour session for parents new to Spanish

• Learn how to pronounce Spanish words
• Learn some memory techniques
• Learn the skills you need to feel confident about supporting your child in Spanish
• Have fun and get to know more year 7 parents

Tuesday 30th September 2008 7p.m. – 8p.m.
The Performance Hall
Comberton Village College
Wider community

• Adult learning opportunities (French, Spanish, Polish)
• Family Spanish for holidays
• Accreditation of students’ home languages
• International Talent Evening
• Concerts (joint German/Music exchange with partner school)
Adults learning Spanish in taster course
Examples of raising the profile activities from Comberton Village College, Cambridgeshire (www.combertonvc.org)
Embedding the Languages specialism across the school

Wednesday 10 February 2010

Rachel Hawkes, AST, SSAT Lead Practitioner
Assistant Principal, Director of Language College and Staff Learning
Comberton Village College
Email: rhawkes@comberton.cambs.sch.uk
Phone: 01223 262503 ext.222