

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

Aims

“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

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



**LANGUAGE
COLLEGES**

Adult learning

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

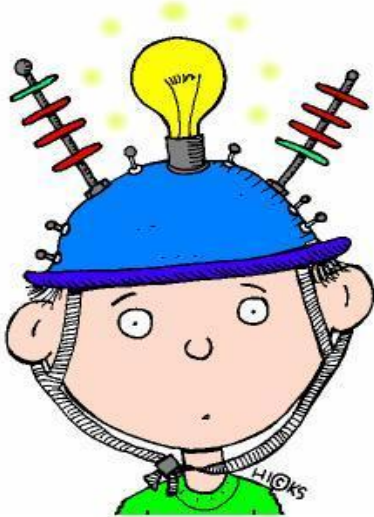
Inter-school working

Linked Up project
AST in-school support
Primary teaching & learning
Primary liaison projects

International links

Exchanges & trips
Project work
Communication
Teacher visits
International Schools Award

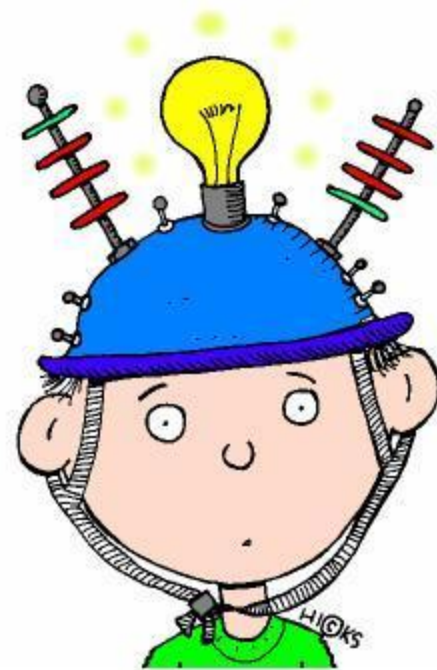
Teaching skills: memory matters



- 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



by amber cornwell



- 1) 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 óvalo muy pequeño.
- 7) Hay un círculo realmente grande



Music PoS

Key Concepts

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*.

Languages PoS

Key Concepts

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*.





Bia.mp3

**British Airways-Iberia merger
to bring world closer for their
customers**

**British Airways e Iberia
alcanzan un acuerdo de
fusión**



British Airways closes in on Iberia merger



“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





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 culminate 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 9 students will get further opportunities to use technology to produce video and audio for primary

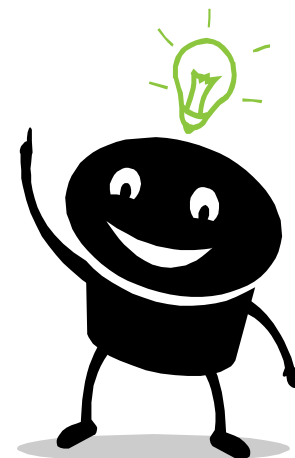
learners and to visit primary classrooms. Last year, 18 students from year 10 completed the Language Leaders Award. The programme involved lunchtime sessions with a languages teacher, where students learnt and practised the skills involved with leading learning in a classroom, and prepared language lessons 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@ssatrust.org.uk

Celebrate and publicise success as much as you can!



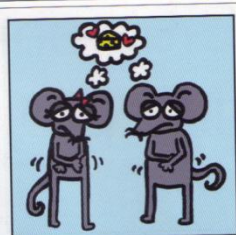
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CHOSEN FEW: Some of the Year 9 language leaders, whose comics will be on display after an inter-school competition.

Laughing and learning

STUDENTS from six schools participated last term 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 languages teachers from a identified group of schools devising their own projects, plans and initiatives to meet shared objectives and priorities identified by the teachers themselves. The Comic Strip competition was one aspect of this work and involved students from the schools using a range of different media and applications to



¡Raquel y Rafael ratón tienen mucha hambre! ¿Pero dónde pueden encontrar un poco de queso?

SETTING THE SCENE: The opening of Ruby and Joe's cartoon. produce their own foreign language comic strips. At Comberton, the students involved were our Year 9 language leaders, who completed the project at lunchtimes and in their own time. An additional challenge was for them to use Photoshop software to write their comic strips and the students had a training session run by a professional graphic designer to get them

started. The competition was judged at the end of last term by teachers from the schools involved. The judges chose one overall winner and 11 further entries were selected to form part of a comic strip display that will be mounted in all of the winning schools. The winning entry was produced by two students from Netherhall school in Cambridge, Emily Dyson and Bethany Gibbs, and is entitled Liebesgeschichte. Entries from the following Comberton students will be included in the final display: Kaya Klasika, Abhi Gupta, Aileen Longson, Sarah Buisson, Ruby Breward and Joe Dickens.

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.

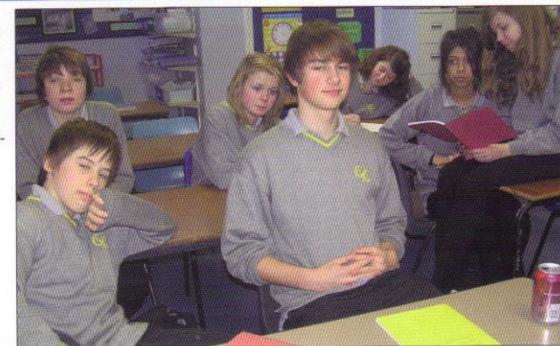
This year's language leaders will be teaching a range of topics including the alphabet, everyday phrases, animals, numbers, countries and continents, dates and family.

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 CoPE International course.

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



LESSON PLANS: Year 10 Language Leaders prepare to teach primary pupils next term.



Developing a global outlook

WELCOME to our new publication, *Lingua@Com*. We are delighted to be able to launch this to join our current journals of *News@Com* and *Sport@Com*, which has been combined with this publication. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this

first edition. Now we are a Language College, we are keen to be able to share the various exciting developments that are happening due to that designation. *Lingua@Com* 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 true global citizens. I hope you enjoy the contents.

Stephen Munday, Principal



LANGUAGE LEADERS: some of the Year 10 pupils who have signed up for the new award.

LINGUISTS TO LEAD THE WAY

COMBERTON has launched a new award for linguists.

Building on the success of the Sports Leaders' Award, the Language Leaders' Award seeks to develop generic leadership skills in the context of teaching a foreign language. Like the Sports Leaders' programme, it is being run by the Youth Sports Trust and participants will have to complete a logbook as well as their practical programme in order to receive a certificate.

Pupils will learn how to plan, prepare and lead language learning activities for younger pupils in taught sessions on Monday lunchtimes.

They will build up a repertoire of teaching strategies and activities in their chosen language as well as their cultural knowledge

of the target language country.

This will prepare them to lead language learning sessions in primary schools later in the school year.

To achieve the award, leaders must have successfully led a total of one hour of language learning activities.

Director of Languages Rachel Hawkes said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop leadership skills and at the same time have a real, meaningful context for using their language ability."

"You only know something really well when you are able to teach it to others."

"The response from primary colleagues has been very enthusiastic and I know from the work that we have already done in primary schools that the response from pupils will be incredibly

positive."

"This is an idea that everybody can benefit from."

All Year 6 pupils at Comberton's feeder primary schools are learning Spanish, but the Language Leaders will not be limited to a single language. They will be able to work in any language they are comfortable with, provided it is taught at primary school, whether as part of the curriculum or in a club setting.

Award for languages programme



European Award
for Languages
2006 Winner

THE Cambridge University Languages Programme, to which Comberton subscribes, has won two prestigious awards. One was for the teaching of Spanish, which is part of the programme for 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 Scottish Parliament on the International Day of Languages.

Director of Languages Rachel Hawkes was invited to the ceremony but was unable to attend.

Full story - Page 2



Links to national award schemes for languages

the **LAFTAS** ★★



**European
Award
for Languages
2009
Winner**



Free Spirit

National Poetry and Song Competition 2009



INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DEL AÑO 2009





**Modellschule & Gesamtschule
Obersberg
Bad Hersfeld, Germany**



**Collège Pierre de Fermat
Toulouse, France
Lycée Jean Jaurès
Reims, France**



**Escola Secundaria do Noroeste 1
Maputo, Mozambique**



**IES Emilio Alarcos
Gijón, Spain**



International Schools Award



**Edendale School
Gauteng, South Africa**



**Anna van Rijn College
Nieuwegein, Holland**



**Instituto Lord Byron
Arequipa
Perú**



**Institut Ramon Muntaner
Figueras, Spain**

Deutsch-englische Harmonie

Musiker der Werratalsschule und des Comberton Village College spielten und sangen gemeinsam

VON JAN C. EISENBERG

HERINGEN. „Einige Schüler haben gesagt, ich soll euch fragen, ob ihr aus Hogwarts kommt“, scherzte Pfarrer Thorsten Waap am Freitagabend in der Heringer Stadtkirche. Die musikalischen Gäste, die er damit ansprach, kamen selbstverständlich nicht vom Zauberinternat aus den Harry-Potter-Romanen, wohl aber aus England. Schülerinnen und Schüler des Comberton Village College aus der Nähe von Cambridge waren zu Gast in der Stadt.



en aus Cambridge beim Auftritt mit Solistin Rachel Hawkes (vorn) in der Heringer Stadtkirche. Die Bläserklasse 5 zeigten am Freitagabend unter Leitung von Andrea Baaske (links), dass sie auch in der Lage sind, zu singen.

Fotos: Eisenberg

HINTERGRUND

Gäste der Obersberg-Schüler

Die 22 Schülerinnen und Schüler mit ihren Lehrern vom Comberton Village College in der Nähe von Cambridge sind einer Einladung

gebenden Schülern, eine Stadtführung durch Bad Hersfeld, Exkursionen nach Kassel und Eisenach sowie am Freitag das hier geschilderte

Vorsprung durch Musik!

DECEMBER saw members of the English cast of Academy of Death travel to Germany to begin rehearsals for the joint Anglo-German production of the musical set to take place later this year in the Performance Hall and in Germany.

The dates coincided with the German Exchange with the same partner schools, the Gesamtschule and Modellschule Obersberg.

In all 44 students travelled to Germany, with Rachel Hawkes, Director of Language College, Helen Piggott, Head of Modern Languages, Geoff Page, Academy of Death's composer and Comberton music teacher, Ben Parker, Head of Music and co-ordinator of this most ambitious venture.

The German cast had already begun learning the songs in anticipation of our visit.

Two of the key chorus numbers have been translated into German and Comberton students enjoyed learning the new versions with their co-cast members.

Although time for rehearsals was limited during the stay, Lyons (the show's director) fly to Germany at the end of February to continue rehearsals with the German cast.

Bad Hersfeld's 600-seater Stadthalle will play host to this bi-lingual production on July 2, during the largest outdoor drama festival in Central Europe.

This production will be immediately preceded by a casted performance of Academy of Death in Comberton at the end of June using exactly the same international cast. Following the performance in Germany, the English Academy of Death cast is then set to perform at the Edinburgh Festival, one of the most well-known and prestigious cultural festivals in the world.



SIGHT-SEEING: Comberton pupils on the bridge in the Schlosspark in Kassel. This entire venture is one of the biggest, most ambitious and exciting projects that Comberton has ever undertaken. We hope to receive British Council funding to support the project as it is a once-in-a-lifetime venture.



SEASONAL SONGS: Pupils join Mr Page to sing Christmas Carols round the grand piano.

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!

Vicky Unsworth (10E)

Partnerschaft im Gepäck

Zusammenarbeit zwischen Obersberg-Schulen und dem englischen Comberton College

Concert double for partner band

VON MARTIN GELLERT

BAD HERSFELD. Viele deutsche Schulen versuchen seit vielen Jahren erfolglos, ein englisches College für eine Schulpartnerschaft zu gewinnen. Dies ist nun als erster Schule im Kreis Hersfeld-Rotenburg der Modell- und Gesamtschule Obersberg sozusagen im Doppelpack gelungen.

Am vergangenen Wochenende hatte sich eine offizielle Delegation beider Hersfelder Schulen auf den Weg in die Grafschaft Cambridgeshire gemacht.

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 on-going 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



MEET THE BAND: Members of the visiting German Brass Ensemble.

who hosted the ensemble musicians for the five nights of their stay with us.

der weitere Fahrplan für die neue Partnerschaft aufgestellt - und dies heißt zunächst die konkrete Planung weiterer Projekte, nicht nur die Musik betreffend, noch in diesem und dem nächsten Jahr sowie die Unterzeichnung eines Partnerschaftsvertrags.

Dann könnten Obersberg-Schüler schon bald auch ein bisschen Universitätsluft schnuppern, wie es die Bad Hersfelder Lehrer an diesem Wochenende bereits getan haben, als sie zum Abschluss ihrer Reise von Professoren in eines der altherwürdigen Colleges zum Essen eingeladen wurden.

Singing together

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

The project aims to bring together all Year 6 students from the nine feeder primary schools on Friday July 10 for a massed singing event. Students in the schools are beginning to learn the Spanish song that they will perform all together and, on the morning of the event, they will also learn one of nine different Spanish songs in their new Year 7 tutor groups, assisted and coached by language

from Years 8 and 9. The Spanish Singing Gala will attract an audience of parents, teachers, students and local people. The event open to all members of the community.

Tickets and people are invited to the Comberton Leisure Performance Hall from 1.00 on the day



ACADEMY OF DEATH: First performed at Comberton last year and now preparing for its international premiere.

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. We needn't have worried. As the award was granted the team

Lehrkräfte Dirk von Sierakowsky, Ulli orne, 2. von rechts) und Silke Pfann- ton Village College, darunter Schul-

ren. Dies liegt unter auch am außerge- n musikalischen as einen gemeinsa- tpunkt zum Obers- illt, von dem sich adhessische Delega- tion persönlich überzeugen- den konnten.

Denn sie durfte als Ehren-

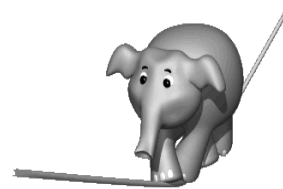
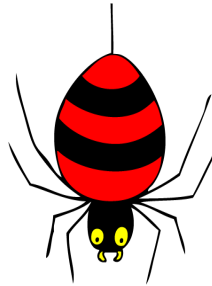


Parents observing language lessons

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

Introduction to Spanish for Parents

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

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