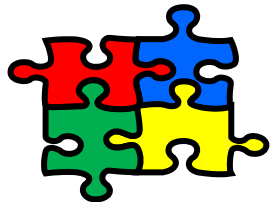




Making the case for languages



Joined Up! Bringing it all together

Rachel Hawkes

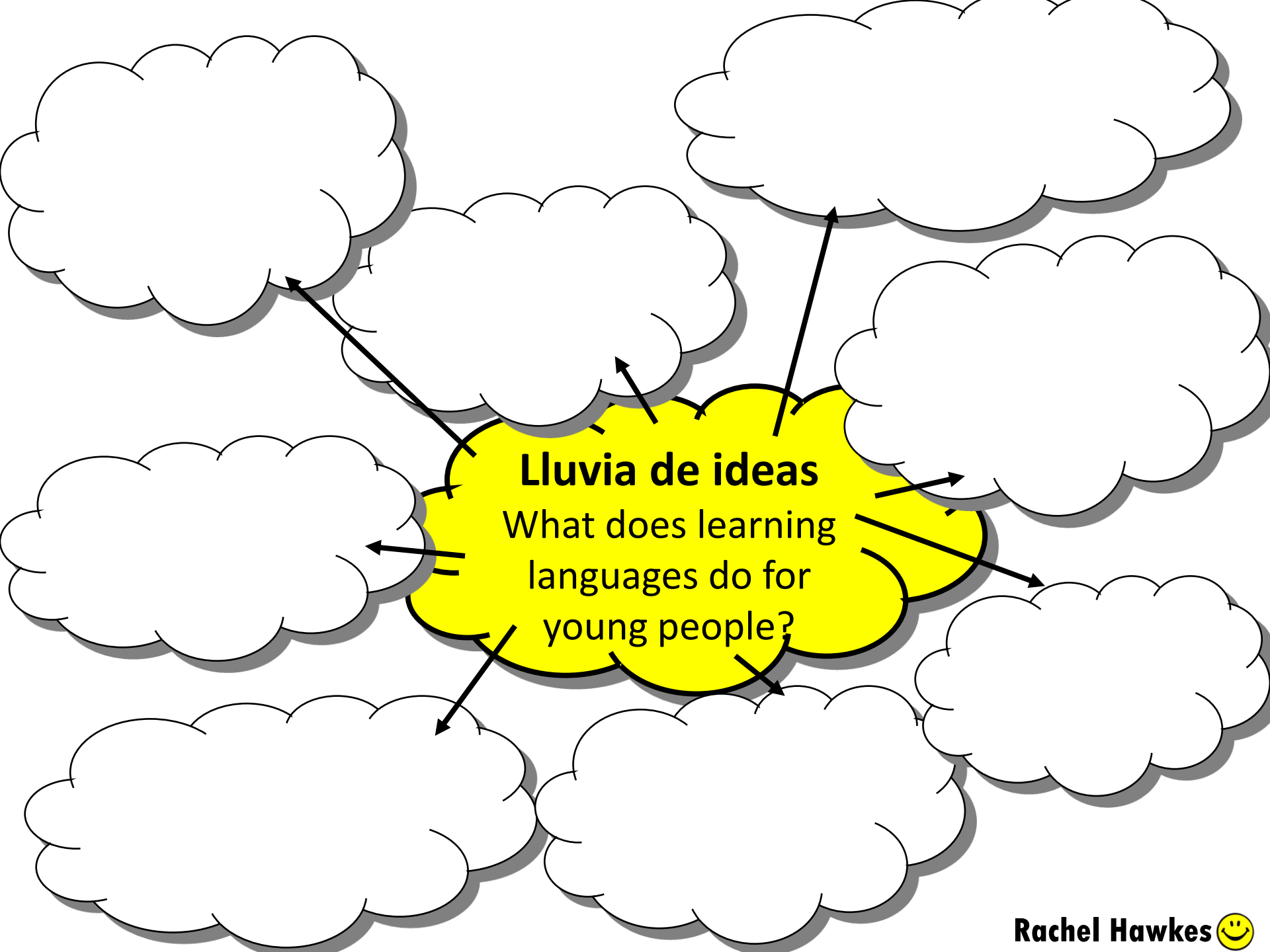
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Aims of this session

- To be clear about the key messages
- To identify the key stakeholders
- To explore ways to ‘sell’ languages at whole school level
- To look at useful resources
- To highlight opportunities to raise the profile
- To remember the importance of KS3



Importance of languages

Languages are part of the cultural richness of our society and the world in which we live and work. Learning languages contributes to mutual understanding, a sense of global citizenship and personal fulfilment. Pupils learn to appreciate different countries, cultures, communities and people. By making comparisons, they gain insight into their own culture and society. The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill for education, employment and leisure in this country and throughout the world.

Learning languages gives pupils opportunities to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and to express themselves with increasing confidence, independence and creativity. They explore the similarities and differences between other languages and English and learn how language can be manipulated and applied in different ways. The development of communication skills, together with understanding of the structure of language, lay the foundations for future study of other languages and support the development of literacy skills in a pupil's own language.

<http://curriculum.qca.org.uk/key-stages-3-and-4/subjects/key-stage-3/modern-foreign-languages/index.aspx>

Why learn a language?

Why learn a foreign language?

Technology, globalisation and ease of international travel are bringing more of the world within our reach. Here are a few reasons why learning languages equips you with the knowledge and skills to take advantage of the opportunities of life in the 21st century.



Languages are a life skill

Knowledge of a foreign language is not just another GCSE grade – it is a concrete and demonstrable life skill, like being able to drive a car or touch-type, and it is a skill highly valued by employers.

Languages teach you communication skills and adaptability

Learning how to interact with speakers of other languages means you are less likely to be stuck in one mode of thinking. It can help you see things from a range of perspectives, develop your problem-solving skills, and make you more adaptable, resourceful and creative.

Languages teach you cultural awareness

The ability to operate cross-culturally is becoming just as valued by employers as straight language skills.

Languages give you a sense of achievement

Learning a language combines the intellectual with the practical as no other subject does. You need to be able to think on your feet, but when you can find exactly the right foreign word or phrase, you get a real sense of achievement.

Languages are a social skill

Languages are very sociable. If you enjoy being with people and communicating with them, the chances are you'll enjoy being able to do this in a foreign language too.

Languages give you the edge in the job market

Today there is a global market for jobs. It is not necessary to be completely fluent in a foreign language to be an asset to any potential employer. Knowing how to meet and greet people from other countries and cultures is a valued skill.

Learning languages gives you greater opportunities to travel and work abroad

There are many opportunities to travel or work with organisations abroad where some knowledge of a foreign language is a clear advantage.

Languages combine well with virtually any subject for further study

The range of combined degrees and further education courses involving a language is limitless – from Accountancy with Russian to Theatre Studies with Italian.

Many universities even offer funding for students to continue or extend their language knowledge by travelling or working abroad during the long vacations.



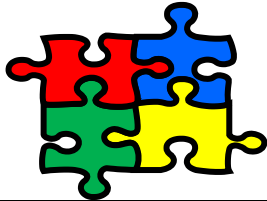
Identifying key stakeholders

- SMT
- Governors
- Parents
- Students
- Other teachers
- Primary colleagues



Ticking 'whole school' boxes

Cross-curriculum
Learning



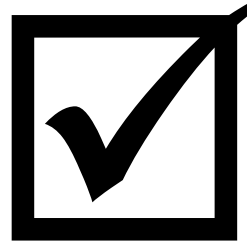
Student
Leadership



Community
Cohesion



Lifelong
learning skills



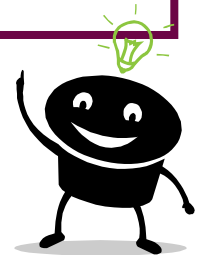
International
Dimension



Identifying key stakeholders

- SMT
- Governors
- Parents
- Students
- Other teachers
- Primary colleagues

‘Think of one way you can have a positive impact on the way each of these groups perceives language learning.’



Resources

On the CD

1. Video clips 1-6 showing the importance of learning a language

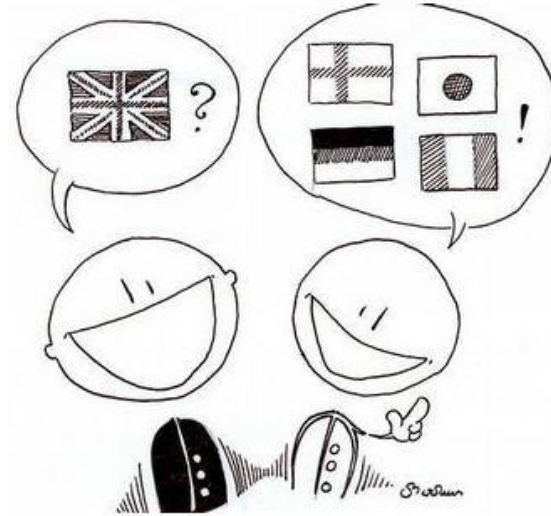
- a. Football manager
- b. Cat speaks Dog
- c. Fish speaks Dog
- d. David Beckham's farewell interview
- e. Barack Obama's message about languages
- f. Teenager makes the case for languages

2. Documents from various sources

- a. PowerPoint with key messages (Dec 2009)
- b. 700 reasons pdf
- c. 700 reasons – additional notes
- d. English is not enough
- e. Languages Work presentation
- f. Part 1 – Why learn languages? Presentation
- g. Part 2 – Routes into HE
- h. Why learn Spanish? Pdf
- i. Language facts
- j. Multilingual London facts & figures
- k. Languages spoken across the UK

- <http://www.all-nsc.org.uk/nsc/>
- <http://curriculum.qca.org.uk/>
- <http://clil4teachers.pbworks.com/>
- http://www.cilt.org.uk/14to19/alt_accred/index.htm
- http://rachelhawkes.typepad.com/files/a-language-is-for-life_blogversionfinal.ppt
- <http://www.cilt.org.uk/14to19/>
- <http://www.assetlanguages.org.uk/>
- http://www.cilt.org.uk/14to19/gcse/new_2009/

Exploiting opportunities



EUROPEAN DAY



OF LANGUAGES

‘What is the best way you can think of to celebrate EDL? What has worked for you well in the past?’



Events, competitions etc...

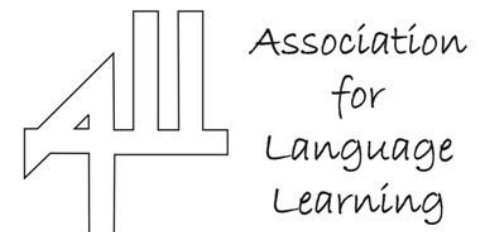
- Christmas and other festivals
- International talent evening
- International coffee morning (for staff)
- Eurovision contest (identify the languages sung over tanoy system)
- Spanglovision (language song competition)
- Language spelling bee



**European
Award
for Languages
2009
Winner**



INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DEL AÑO 2009



Getting the learning right @KS3

Active Learning

Focus on skills

Creativity

Cross-curriculum links

Age-appropriate content

Meaningful topics

Culture

Learning beyond the classroom