THE MULTIPLE USPs OF LANGUAGES

How to sell languages to pupils, other teachers, SMT, parents and governors
What are the USPs of languages?

- Lifelong learning skills
- Student Leadership
- Cross-curriculum learning
- The International Dimension
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
Year 7 language learning

• Pronunciation
• Memory
• Sentence-building
• Creativity
• Autonomy
• Performance

“If you think you can, you can. And if you think you can’t, you’re right.”

*Henry Ford*
Spanglovision: a year 7 learning project
Student Leadership: a 'no brainer'

Average Retention Rate

- **Immediate Use of Learning – Teach Others**: 90%
- **Practice by Doing**: 75%
- **Discussion Group**: 50%
- **Demonstration**: 30%
- **Audio-Visual**: 20%
- **Reading**: 10%
- **Lecture**: 5%

Source: Accelerated Learning Systems Ltd
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 videos 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@ssatstrust.org.uk

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.

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

LETTACK Y KESOLO RABONBIO NA NAHUCHA KEDEREBIET UPO KPUYO QESOLO?

GETTING THE SCENE: The opening of Ruby and Joe’s takeaway.

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 tutors from a partnership of schools devising their own projects, plans and activities to meet shared objectives and priorities identified by the teachers themselves.

The comic strip competition was one aspect of the work and involved students from the schools using a range of different media and applications to create their own comic strips. The winners were announced last week and are being used by schools to promote their language teaching.
Developing a global outlook

Welcome to our new publication, Language@Com. We are delighted to be able to launch this to join our current journals of News@Com and Sports@Com, which has been continued with this publication. 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 due to that situation. Language@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 our global citizens. I hope you enjoy the content.

Stephen Munday, Principle

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 Sport Leaders' Award, the Language Leaders' Award seeks to develop generic leadership skills in the context of teaching a foreign language. Like the Sport Leaders' programme, it is being run by the Youth Sport 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 sessions for younger pupils at 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, students 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 skills. 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 9 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 as a club set up.

Award for languages programme

THE Cambridge University Language Programme, to which Comberton subscribes, has won two prestigious awards.

One was for the teaching of Spanish, which is part of the programme. The other was the 2006 European Award for Languages.

They were presented with the award last month at the European Parliament on the International Day of Languages. Director of Languages Rachel Hawkes was invited to the ceremony.

British Council International School Award

2006 Winner

Full story - Page 2
Student Leadership: a ‘no brainer’

• Year 7 homework – teach someone at home
• Year 7 – teach an exchange group
• Year 8 – teach year 6 on intake day
• Year 9 – develop materials for year 7 or year 6
• Year 9 or 10 – Language Leaders Award
Cross-curriculum learning

Themes & content

Skills

Ways of working

Leading in Learning

Hotseating

Physical theatre

Role Play
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.
Un cuadro de Picasso
La chica en el cuadro es muy rara. Es rara porque, en mi opinión, tiene dos caras. Tiene el pelo rojo y rizado a la derecha, pero verde, naranja y liso a la derecha. Tiene una nariz pequeña y en el centro de dos caras. Tiene un ojo azul y un ojo marrón. La cara a la izquierda es azul y la cara a la derecha es roja. Pienso que esta está dos caras pero una persona. Tiene el pestaños largo y una sonrisa pequeña. Me gusta mucho la chica porque parece simpático como yo.
Mi zapatos de baile son de Inglaterra.
Mi mapa syrup es de Canadá.
Mi libro es de Francia.
Mi pulóver es de Paquistán.
Mi escritorio es de los Estados Unidos.
Mi pantalón es de Mongolia.
Mi IPod es de China.
Mi vestido es de Salvador.
Links for learning

- 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/gcs/new_2009/
“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!”
The International Dimension

Use technology for linking

Publicise everything

Major in culture in your teaching

Expand your trips and exchanges
¿Dónde viven estos animales?
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 Gsammatschule and Modellischule 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 designer and costume designer, and the pair took part in the Production 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 share a joint production of the musical Academy of Death in June in England, and 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 Comberton, Mooneilacht 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.

Heringen • Niederaula • Bad Herstedt

Deutsch-englische Harmonie
Musiker der Werratalschule und der Comberton Village College spielen und sangen gemeinsam

HERINGEN. Einige Schüler haben gesagt, dass die Musik uns genau bietet, was wir in der Musikalisierung universitärer Arbeit geben. Es ist eine wunderbare Erfahrung, gemeinsam zu spielen und zu singen.

On the German exchange partner was from Bad Herstedt, which we visited for the first time in December.

On our visit we were treated to a long journey, but the visit was certainly worth the effort. We played a concert in the local church and were invited to see the town and the beautiful surrounding countryside.

Klare Stimmen von der Festwarte: Die Schüler der Werratalschule haben sich mit der Musik der Comberton Village College auf dem Weg zur gemeinsamen Harmonievertretung für das Bildband treten.

Thumbs up for German Exchange

Our German exchange partner came over from Bad Herstedt to visit us in Comberton for the first time.

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Kurz vor der Verabschiedung

Eine besondere Erlebnis für alle Schüler war die Möglichkeit, gemeinsam zu spielen und zu singen. Es war eine wunderbare Erfahrung, die wir nicht vergessen werden.

Zusammenarbeit zwischen Obersberg-Schulen und den englischen Comberton College

Partnerschaft im Gepäck

Von Martin Gellert

BAD HERSTEDT. Viele deutsche Schüler haben in den letzten Jahren eine englische Schule besucht. Die Partnerschaft mit den Obersberg-Schulen ist nun auch eine Freundschaft.

Drei Schüler aus der Realschule Obersberg haben die Chance, eine Woche in Bad Herstedt zu verbringen. Sie können dort ihre Schule kennenlernen und ihre Sprache verbessern.

Muskeln als Grundstein

Mit dabei die beiden Schulen: Sabine Rimbach und Karl Weber sowie die Musikschule Sierakowski.

Dazu kommen die beiden Schülerinnen Sabine Rimbach und Karl Weber aus der Musikschule Sierakowski. Sie haben das Rezital der Obersberg-Schüler in Bad Herstedt gehört und waren von der Qualität der Musik begeistert.

Singing together

PLANS for the future: Spanish singing lessons, English music and composition workshops, and a visit to the City of London.

The project was to bring together all groups of singers from the five different primary schools, secondary schools and universities. The students were divided into five groups, and each group had a different theme.

All systems go!

WITH some students busy last term we were asked if we could find funding from the British Council for an Anglo-Italian joint consultation meeting.

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International Schools Award

Modellschule & Gesamtschule, Obersberg
Bad Hersfeld, Germany

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

Anna van Rijn College
Nieuwegein, Holland

IES Emilio Alarcos
Gijón, Spain

Instituto Lord Byron
Arequipa
Perú

Institut Ramon Muntaner
Figueras, Spain
What role for technology?

- Email
- Podcasting
- Blogging
- Mobile phones
- Digital cameras
- Moving images & story boards
- Music & words
- Video
Opportunities

Audience

Creativity
COMBERTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

LANGUAGE COLLEGES

INTERNATIONAL

rafi.ki

Linking up through Rafi.ki
Commendation

This is to certify that
has shown excellence whilst using the Rafi.ki Global Learning Community.

THIS STUDENT HAS DEMONSTRATED GLOBAL AWARENESS THROUGH OUTSTANDING ICT AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS.

TEACHER

HENRY WARREN: RAFIKI DIRECTOR

DATE

Pupils use chatroom in school!

COMBERTON'S new link with the Institut Ramon Montaner in Figueres, Spain, continues to go from strength to strength. Almost 100 Year 7 students are now involved in a pen-friend project and an interactive exchange.

Each month students exchange hand-written letters with their Spanish partners, something which is proving very successful in improving students' Spanish writing skills. Apart from the letters, the students have now been registered on the Rafi.ki on-line portal, which allows them to communicate interactively with their Spanish partners as well as students from all over the world. Most students have now produced their own web-page in Spanish and English and have begun communicating with the Spanish students using the project’s chatrooms.

In addition to this, each pair of students now has their own private forum where they can send messages to each other at home.

Furthermore, a group of Year 7 students have volunteered to be Rafi.ki Monitors and they will be responsible for numerous tasks, including training other students and members of staff on how to use the Portal, producing articles and information in Spanish to include on the Project pages and collating and distributing pen-friend letters. It is envisaged that the Year 7 students involved in the Project will continue to work with their pen-friends throughout their time at CVC and it is hoped that this project will be extended to next year’s intake.

With foreign visits always being highly over-subscribed at CVC, this project aims to enable those students not able to visit Spain to still reap the benefits of an exchange.

Bringing the world together

As well as work within CVC, Director of Language College Rachel Hawkes has also been raising the profile of Rafi.ki within the region and recently hosted a Introduction to Rafi.ki event at the college with the Director of Rafi.ki, John McNutt.

He said: “It helps schools find a partner, talk to a partner and work with a partner. We had two new countries join last week—Nepal and Algeria. Schools tend to start with one class, then use it more and more across the subjects. There is lip service about the global dimension and making it work across the curriculum—this brings it alive.”

For further information visit:

www.rafi.ki
ICT fit for progression

- Skills
- Structures
- Knowledge
- Output (text type)
- Creativity
Next steps for leading languages!

- Take existing SOW – keep what’s good!
- Place skills at the centre
- Look at culture in content
- Cross-curriculum opportunities
- Types of text and genre as way to focus linguistic progression
- Be bold with textbook
- Think BIG about the importance of languages – take small steps to sell the message to learners, parents and teachers
Links to national award schemes for languages

**links into LANGUAGES**

**the LAFTAs**

**International School Award 2007-2010**

**Free Spirit**
National Poetry and Song Competition 2009

**European Award for Languages 2009 Winner**

**routes into LANGUAGES**
Examples of raising the profile activities from Comberton Village College, Cambridgeshire (www.combertonvc.org)
Two stars and a wish
Two stars and a wish!

Think about two things that raise the profile of languages already in your school - can you publicise these even more widely?

Think about one new thing that you would like to develop to blaze a trail for languages in your school - try to be explicit about the knowledge and/or skills you need to achieve this. Make a list of next steps to achieve this one new thing!
THE MULTIPLE USPs of LANGUAGES

Rachel Hawkes
Comberton Village College
rhawkes@comberton.cambs.sch.uk
www.rachelhawkes.typepad.com/linguacom