

# Meadowhead School

A Language College

# International Times



## Redesignation Success!

Following a successful Ofsted inspection which complimented us on our visible international ethos around the school, and stating "Enrichment is outstanding and reflects the influence of the specialist status", we achieved our 2nd redesignation and have now entered our 3rd phase. We are now looking forward to building on previous successes with our enthusiastic and committed Languages Faculty team.

## Flying High with BA award!

Mr Merritt coached 9 brave Y10 GCSE students who studied hard all year after school to achieve this special British Airways Flag Award for German language skills. The exam, which all BA staff must pass to prove a high level of foreign language proficiency, is intense to say the least, including interpreting customer requests, translating announcements, interacting with customers in German and reading out cabin safety announcements of course!

Well done to all 9 students who passed with 'flying colours', receiving certificates and a BA badge to recognise their efforts. We hope their new qualification serves them well in the future with potential employers!



## Online Tandem Learning Programme

10 gifted and talented linguists from our Y11 GCSE French, German and Spanish groups attended a languages conference at Hull University in the autumn term entitled Going Global: Communication in an Inter-Dependent Globe. After trying their hand at interpreting, global language tasters and a campus tour led by undergraduate students, they were invited to enrol on a new online tandem learning project in the Spring Term. All students were paired up online with a native graduate of the language they had chosen, and 'conversed' online for a 6 week period on topics related to their GCSE and interests to help improve their global communication skills and Intercultural knowledge. All students completed the course and received a certificate of merit from the MFL dept at Hull University.

# What's New?

## First German Exchange

Following the first leg of this new exchange programme when German students visited Meadowhead earlier in the spring term, 11 GCSE German students embarked upon our first return visit to our partner school in Koblenz at the end of June, led by our Head of German. Students enjoyed their complete immersion into German family life, attending lessons, and visiting places of interest.

## New Finnish Partner School

In February 2 teachers from our Learning support undertook a British council funded 'preparatory visit' to our new partner school in Klaukkala, Finland to plan a new joint curriculum project involving our students with learning difficulties and disabilities. The hospitality shown by our Finnish partners was second to none, and we look forward to some exciting work, future student visits and videoconferencing in the near future!

## Other Language trips and exchanges on offer:

- Y7** German Christmas market trip to Aachen & Cologne
- Y7** French trip to Boulogne
- Y8-10** Spanish study visit to Cantabria
- Y8-11** Exchange visit to Nanjing
- Y8-11** Russian Theatre/Arts/Circus Visit
- Y9** German study visit to Rhineland
- Y10** French work experience exchange to Amiens
- Y10** Spanish exchange to Zaragoza
- Y10** Study visit to Moscow
- Y11** Spanish Interactive Revision weekend to Derbyshire



## Italian Rugby Tour

61 boys and 7 staff embarked on the bi-annual bus tour of Italy over February half term. Staying close to Lake Garda, we also visited Verona on our tour. The rugby matches, training sessions and hospitality shown by other Italian schools and coaches were excellent. Armed with a GCSE in Italian under his belt from last year, Harrison Carter (Y11 Head Boy) became the tour Interpreter, impressing the Italians with his fluency! Harrison was so impressive, the Italian sides, who play a lot of English teams, commented that this was the first time they had not had to use a club member to interpret! Bravo Harrison!

## Dutch Football Tour

At Easter, 45 budding footballers and 4 staff visited Feyenoord FC, Holland on our first football tour. They undertook intensive football training with world class coaches on their 4 day visit. The teams saw Sparta Rotterdam play PSV Eindhoven, our Y10, and Y9 teams beat the local opponents hands down and a draw for the Y8 team made for a fantastic result all round - Gefeliciteerd!



## Intensive French in Nice

Y9 French students enjoyed a week long intensive French Language study visit to Nice in March this year. In the mornings, students enjoyed 4 hours of French classes in groups of 9 provided by Actilangue Language School, and cultural visits in the afternoon, including a trip to Monaco, led by 2 of our French teachers.

## Global Schools Success & Teachers TV fame!

Thanks to our success on the Global schools Programme, where a team of teachers led by our International co-ordinator created new exciting lessons with a global dimension, we were asked to take part in a Teachers TV programme on the Global Dimension for KS3/4 Citizenship. The film crew captured our teachers in action delivering their new global lessons to enthusiastic students, and a group discussion followed about their experience of the Global Schools programme. You can see the full programme on: [www.teachers.tv/video/32403](http://www.teachers.tv/video/32403)



## Looking East Fashion project

GCSE Art textiles students have once again created some outstanding clothing garments based on Far Eastern designs as part of their looking East coursework module, with the help of our talented textiles dept who benefited from taking part in our last Chinese exchange to bring back genuine sample materials and knowledge about the silk making processes and Chinese fashion design. Their fantastic work was on show at our annual GCSE Art, Design and Technology exhibition in May.

## Turning Japanese!

Y9 single language students have enjoyed learning Japanese for 2 years now, with great success! Learning a very different language has really motivated these students, who enjoyed the different shapes and sounds of the spoken/written language. As a reward for their hard work, we organised a special trip to the Japanese Embassy's Club Taishikan in London, where they enjoyed workshops calligraphy, origami and dressing up in genuine Kimono, followed by lunch in a Japanese restaurant!

We also run a Japanese Society after school and have provided taster sessions to feeder primary schools which have proved extremely popular.

## Chinese club

Y7-Y9 students have again enjoyed many activities in their after school Chinese clubs this year, ranging from Chinese lantern making, Calligraphy, paper folding, and Chinese cooking, in addition to learning some Mandarin language skills. Members also enjoyed a visit to the City Hall to Celebrate Chinese New Year (Year of the Ox), involving Lion Dances and a colourful parade demonstrated by the Sheffield Chinese Community. Students are now looking forward to taking part in our next Exchange visit to our partner school in Nanjing in 2010.

# Meadowhead Goes Global

## International Day!

On Friday 5th June, Y9 students enjoyed an array of multicultural activities and sports on our annual International day. The aim of this exciting day is to immerse students in different cultures from around the world through a wide range of workshops led by teachers and visiting artists. Normal lessons were abandoned all day, as each form participated in different activities, ranging from International Fair trade Kenyan culture & food workshops, Martial Arts and Indian Yoga beats, to Middle Eastern, Italian, Spanish, and French cooking.



## Sri Lankan partner school teacher exchange visits

In February, 2 more of our teachers visited our Muslim partner school in Balapitiya, Sri Lanka, as part of our British council DFID global schools partnership programme. They had a fantastic time teaching RE and PSHE to Sri Lankan students in the school by day, and enjoyed visiting the elephant orphanage and Turtle sanctuary at the weekend. In May, we welcomed the Sri Lankan Head Teacher and 2 other teachers to Meadowhead, for a 2 week stay. They attended lessons, judged a special Sri Lankan Art competition and even led assemblies about Sri Lanka to the whole school!! They also brought genuine artefacts for our enterprise students to sell on a stall to raise money for much needed computer facilities at their school. We now look forward to our 3rd year of the programme, to develop more joint curriculum project work and teacher training for their school.

## Business Language Champions 2009

In conjunction with our fantastic manufacturing business partner Gripple Ltd, 15 of our Y10 talented linguists formed our business language champion group this year. They worked tirelessly after school to create information packs for Business Language NVQ students who visit the company to learn more about international business and why they use French, German and Spanish at work.

They also translated corporate PowerPoint presentations from English into their target language which enabled them to learn more business and technical vocabulary, something which they don't normally learn in their GCSE course. All students were presented with a certificate of merit by Gripple office sales manager on their final visit to the company in June, and were invited to a celebration evening of bowling and a special meal courtesy of Gripple and the Language College.



### French for Primary school teachers

In conjunction with a local language agency Babble & Speak, we also offered a free French course for primary staff in the city who are keen to brush up on their skills to help support the teaching of French at KS1-2. Feedback has been very positive and all participants are now armed with a better knowledge of the language as well as lots of new resources and games to support their French teaching from September onwards.

### Primary Spanish Hungry Caterpillar project!

We continue to support our feeder schools with their delivery of French, German and Spanish at KS2 throughout the year. Many projects take place to enrich their language learning and support Y6-7 transition, and this year one of these included a Videoconference between Sir Harold Jackson school and Meadowhead where we told the story of the Hungry Caterpillar in Spanish!

### It's never too late to learn!

Our adult evening classes flourished again in the autumn/spring terms with over 200 adult members attending 7 languages – French, Italian, German, Spanish, Russian, Greek and Mandarin. In the summer term, we offered 6 week holiday tasters in French, Spanish, Italian and Greek, where adults also enjoyed getting to grips with the basics in time for their holidays.

### Adult Evening Language Classes in French, German, Spanish, Greek, Mandarin, Italian or Russian

1st Term: 1st October 2009 – 14th January 2010  
2nd Term: 21st January 2010 – 6th May 2010  
(Duration of 2x12 week terms)

Cost: £60 for 12 weeks or just £100 for 24 weeks!  
Thursday evenings term time between 6-9pm  
Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced levels

Call Alison Huff between 3-6pm daily on 0114 2372723

See website for details/enrolment form:  
Email: [languagecollege@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:languagecollege@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk)  
ASAP prior to the start date.

## Who's who?

- Mrs J. Brown**  
Head of Languages,  
Assistant Headteacher  
French, German
- Miss J. Allen**  
Language College  
Manager  
French, Spanish,  
Italian
- Mr P. Church**  
Joint Head of Spanish  
French, Spanish
- Mrs K. Cardall**  
Joint Head of Spanish  
French, German,  
Spanish
- Ms A. Grotzki**  
Head of German  
French, German
- Ms S. Maynard**  
Head of French  
& Italian  
French, German,  
Italian
- Ms S. Theyer**  
Head of Russian  
Y10 Year Team Leader  
German, Russian
- Miss G. Brabin**  
Teacher  
French, German,  
Spanish
- Mrs L. Greaves**  
Teacher  
German, Spanish
- Miss N. Legrée**  
Teacher  
French, German,  
Spanish
- Mrs P. Lewis**  
Teacher & Primary  
Languages  
Co-ordinator  
French, German
- Mr B. Merritt**  
Teacher  
French, German
- Ms N. Semp**  
Teacher  
French, German,  
Russian
- Mrs H. Hunt**  
Teacher  
French, Spanish
- Miss R. Renshaw**  
Teacher  
German, Spanish
- Mrs T. Clapham**  
Faculty Assistant
- Mr J. Fernandez**  
Teaching Assistant
- Mr P J Le Boudouil**  
French Assistant
- Mr F Candellera**  
Spanish Assistant
- Ms J Lingenfelser**  
German Assistant



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