

Cross-curricular event

## **ANYWHERE ACADEMY'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES OPEN DAY**

Well in advance of the European Day of Languages (or other suitable whole-school event), set up an 'International School of Languages' by inviting applications for staff and students for the school.

### **TEACHERS**

**The remit for teachers in the International School** will be to offer one-to-one or small group tuition for an hour (or other specified period) in any language other than English with which the teacher is sufficiently familiar. The teachers can be from any sector of the school community with sufficient skill to teach a mini-syllabus of their own choosing: ML teachers, teachers from other subject areas, support, guidance, ancillary staff, visiting teachers, school management, (parents?); anyone who is sufficiently familiar with a language other than English to offer a short taster in that language; the idea being, of course, to have as many languages as possible represented, including, possibly, Sign Language, Makaton, or any other communication methods in use within the school, home or holiday environment of the teachers concerned.

#### **Syllabus: elementary or more advanced**

Numbers up to 10 or 100; days of the week; greetings; talking about yourself, etc. or more advanced functions and notions with which the 'teacher' is familiar, in any language, including Those applying to be teachers state the language(s) or communication modes and the syllabus they are able and willing to offer.

#### **Competency**

A high level of competence is not required, but the teacher must offer tuition in language and topics with which they are sufficiently familiar. If necessary, interviews can be held, for which candidates can prepare in advance. They can make or be provided with any teaching aids they wish to use.

### **LEARNERS**

Learners are drawn from the same communities: teachers, pupils, ancillary staff, etc. (parents? Primary 7 pupils?). They also must apply in advance, stating which of the languages on offer they wish to sample, and whether or not they already know the language at all.

## ADMINISTRATION

Set deadlines for staff applications earlier than the date for learner enrolments. As soon as possible after the first applications for teachers are received, publish a list of International School staff, together with the language(s) they are offering. Add to this list as applications are received and accepted. This will let learners know what languages are on offer before they apply. Participants can choose to be teachers or learners, or both.

Pair up teachers and learners and ask them to consult on the syllabus to be taught/learned on the 'Open Day'. A degree of flexibility may be needed here before pairs are finally settled. How many sessions teachers are to offer, and the size and composition of their teaching groups may need to be negotiated carefully. Some of the teachers and some of the learners will be adults who may be placed strategically, but make sure the adults don't all choose to be teachers. If the school has been promoting AifL strategies, encourage their use in these mini classes.

Ask for detailed feedback after the event: How did it go? How did participants feel about it? What could be organised differently next time? Is there any way in which those who found their new language of particular interest could follow it up, formally or informally?

Senior pupils can be incorporated into a 'School Board' to help manage the event.

## SOME FEATURES OF THE EXERCISE

- Involves whole school community, including, possibly, parents and other family members.
- Crosses curricular, age and status boundaries
- Affirms and confirms the links between languages and the local community,
- Potential for including forms of communication used by disabled members of the community
- Careers activities can be incorporated
- Subject matter taught and learned is personalised by participants
- Those who are teachers and learners for the event choose their roles and are responsible for carrying them out efficiently
- Potential for incorporating aspects of ACE and AifL currently being developed in school
- Potential for incorporating leadership opportunities for senior language pupils