

LA CUCINA D'INFERNO

(HELL'S KITCHEN)

Building languages into
work-related learning 14-19

Why did we choose this project?

Royal Forest of Dean College was the winner of the inaugural TES/HSBC “International College of the Year” award for our international work.

We already had wide experience of teaching languages to and using NVQ units with vocational learners post 16 and know this can enthuse and motivate them.

AIMS OF PROJECT

- To raise the profile and thus the uptake of language learning in the Forest of Dean where take up post 14 is very low (all project partner schools less than 25%) and low post 16 take up at A level.
- To teach pupils a new skill (Italian cooking) through a new language, (Italian).
- To produce a replicable project.

AIMS OF PROJECT

- To use NVQ language units to accredit language learning. Assess to take place as far as possible in the work situation.
- To bring creativity into language learning.
- To promote healthy eating
- To form a Forest language network to promote this and other motivating models of language learning.

Project partners

- Royal Forest of Dean College (now a campus of Gloucestershire College).
- Forest 14-19 partnership
- Heywood Community College, Cinderford
- Lakers' School, Berry Hill
- Whitecross School, Lydney
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Franco Taruschio, OBE

How we did it

- Dec 2009. MFL colleagues in partner schools selected year 9 pupils on basis of interest/aptitude for languages.
- Jan 2010. All those selected had a formal interview with a panel including Franco Taruschio.
- Jan – March 2010. Learners had one hour a week of Italian in home school focusing on relevant vocabulary and structures.

How we did it

- March 2010. Pupils spent four days in training kitchens of the College cooking with Franco Taruschio. Speaking and Listening assessments for NVQ units were carried out in the kitchen and restaurant after the session.
- April –June 2010. Reading and Writing assessments carried out.
- June 23rd 2010. Celebration meal for 70 cooked and served by Franco Taruschio and Cucina pupils.

NVQ Language units - advantages

- Vocationally based
- Ability to design own content within assessment criteria
- Allow for assessment of naturally occurring evidence in the workplace – eg.
- Allows pupils to retake assessments until they are competent.
- NVQ units at level 2 carry league table points.

How well did we succeed?

- **Language Learning.** All pupils successfully completed all four language units in Italian at level 1 by June 2010, with most of the assessment taking place in the workplace.
- **Increased Motivation.** 14/16 pupils in the project have continued with languages in KS4.
- **Personal development.** Participating pupils report increased self confidence and mention making new friends and working with pupils from other schools as aspects they particularly appreciate.
- **Recruitment of boys to Languages.** Over 50% of applicants and participants were boys, attracted by learning a language out of the class room.
- **Future of project.** With the support of Links into Languages South West, we have produced a bi lingual recipe booklet and a complete set of assessment materials so that the project is replicable.

FUTURE PLANS

- Cucina mark 2 is in the planning stage for 2011/12, bringing in a new cohort of Year 9s.
- Introduction of the E Bacc as a measure of success in 2010 has meant a change of focus towards GCSE in partner schools. Through our Forest language network we are working on ways to show the motivating power of alternative ways of language learning which will increase success at GCSE whilst waiting to see if NVQ units will be allowed in the E Bacc.

PROJECT EVALUATION

- The Cucina project has shown that pupils can be motivated to learn a language through the acquisition of a practical skill and this leads to them continuing to learn languages at KS4.
- We now have a Network for Languages Forest group and are working together to promote language learning in our area.