

NEWS

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FRENCH IMMERSION COURSES

Stafford Leys Primary School is sending ten members of staff on PQ France Immersion Courses as part of a project funded by Erasmus+, the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport.

Project leader Angela Smith attended the first course in November 2017 with deputy head Caralyn Bignell and each day was crammed with activities: intensive language teaching by native French speakers started early in the morning and methodology lessons took place in the afternoon. Cultural activities, including playing *pétanque* with locals, visiting a French market and sampling regional food, took place around lessons.

The pair also visited a primary school in Toulouse, where they had the opportunity to observe lessons and

teach English to the French children. The next two participants are now preparing for their trip to develop the partnership with the French school and an eTwinning project.

Head teacher Andy Kitchen said: "This project will bring huge benefits. As more staff become involved, the profile of MFL will be higher, the standard of teaching will be raised and we expect our pupils' learning outcomes to improve accordingly. It is already having an impact; we are regularly hearing French in the corridors and the prospect of communicating with French children via the partnership with École Alain Savary is creating a real buzz around the school."



ALL news

Introducing our new Language Resource Reviews Editors

ALL would like to welcome Carol Hughes and Sarah Lloyd who have taken on the role of Resource Reviews Editors.

Sarah is a senior examiner, teacher trainer and MFL consultant for a leading exam board. She played a key role in the development of the newly reformed GCSEs and A Levels, and has also designed a range of international qualifications. Sarah says she is 'delighted' to join the ALL community. "I'm keen to document a range of innovative practices from within the MFL classroom and beyond, supporting teachers to experiment with new tools," she said.

Carol has been a secondary teacher of French and German for over 30 years and has also worked in teacher-training. She joined ALL in the 1990s and is currently secretary of the Essex and East Anglian Branch Committee, as well as a member of the ALL Council.

She retired from the classroom in 2015 but has continued to work in the languages field as a trainer for the new examinations with Edexcel. As a Resource Reviews Editor, she hopes to continue to offer readers of *Languages Today* useful articles about new publications and online resources. She is also looking forward to working with the editors of the Language Zones pages on the ALL website.



Sarah Lloyd



Carol Hughes

The Last Word

Roma Schultz of the Goethe-Institut on why learning German is more important than ever [Page 38](#)

French and Spanish Resource

La Jolie Ronde's award-winning KS2 Scheme of Work contains everything you need to help plan and implement your policy for teaching a foreign language in one go. The resource is a flexible four-year programme providing support to teachers with no previous experience of teaching foreign languages and a guide for the more experienced, who can modify to suit. One of the biggest benefits of the resource is that everything is already pre-prepared and planned so you can literally start teaching straight away.



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Language learners sharing a raclette

ADULT LANGUAGE LEARNING IS ALIVE AND KICKING

Language-learning post GCSE is alive and kicking at Alderman White School in Beeston, which is one of the few schools to have kept its Language College specialism, with a particular focus on promoting language learning in the wider community.

In the early years of the specialist schools movement, additional funding was available but now the provision has to be self-funding. The school still offers a range of languages to adult learners during the week, including French, German, Italian and Spanish, as well as Arabic, Greek and Mandarin. At the weekend there is further provision for family learning with an emphasis on Mandarin Chinese and Japanese.

The school hosts the Nottingham Chinese School, which attracts young learners of Mandarin Chinese from the whole of the Nottingham area – about 250 children are currently learning Mandarin on Saturday afternoons. In total about 500 learners of all ages from the wider community are learning languages as part of the Language College provision.

COMMUNITY HUB

"The Language College has placed Alderman White at the very hub of the community," said college director, Karsten Stephan. "All our students are able to benefit from this additional

provision and through the promotion of adult language learning, younger learners have also benefited from role models who embody the principle of lifelong learning.

EXTENDED LEARNING

"I have long believed that the ethos of a school is all-important in determining its success and the fact that the school is now open in the evening has enabled other extracurricular activities to flourish out of school hours.

"Most of the adult-learners are not learning languages to achieve a qualification, most want to be able to relax after a hard day at work and enjoy interacting in a foreign language. Many want to use their language skills when they are on holiday or working abroad."

Commercially, the Language College has paid off. The college operates a 'pay-as-you-learn' system. At only £5 per week for a 90-minute lesson there is an element of affordability that makes its provision really appealing.

Many of the classes also offer a cultural experience – making sushi in Japanese, authentic paella in Spanish or enjoying raclette in French, which definitely makes language learning very palatable.

In 2016, the school became Nottingham's first Confucius Classroom, adding another exciting international strand to its languages provision.