

# Improving Speaking Skills in the MFL Classroom: A Practical Approach to Improve Spontaneity and Fluency

The development of speaking skills in MFL continues to be a key focus for secondary schools. Encouraging the spontaneous use of language in the classroom and group discussions in the target language are both critical in the drive to improve pupils' oral skills. Group Talk is a language learning project which develops pupils' ability to take part in authentic mini-discussions and debates in the target language. Its impact on learning has been significant and, in 2008, it gained a *European Award for Languages* and the *Mary Glasgow Award*. More recently it has featured on Teachers' TV and been showcased by the European Commission Molan Project.

Over the last couple of years, an ever-increasing number of languages departments across the UK have embraced the Group Talk ethos. Teachers who have introduced the project speak enthusiastically about its positive effect on the language learning environment and pupil attainment.

During the course, delegates will learn how to introduce Group Talk and make a difference to their

pupils' language skills and take away practical ideas and strategies for active and dynamic language learning.

## Inputs will include:

- The Practicalities of Group Talk in the MFL Classroom
- Group Talk and its Impact on Examination Results
- Sustaining Group Talk in MFL as a Feature of Everyday Classroom Practice
- Maximising the Impact of Group Talk: Real Successes to Share
- Making Language Learning Active and Dynamic: Getting Body and Brain Working Together
- Top Tips on Raising Achievement in MFL Speaking Skills

## Programme

9:30	<b>Registration and Refreshments</b>	
10:00	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	
	<b>What is Group Talk?</b>	
	• Understanding the Principles of this Award Winning Project	
	• The Practicalities of Group Talk in the MFL Classroom	1:00
	• Maximising the Impact of Group Talk: Real Successes to Share	2:00
	• Group Talk and its Positive Impact on Examination Results	
11:40	<b>Coffee</b>	
12:00	<b>Making Group Talk Work for You</b>	
	• Launching Group Talk with Your Pupils	3:35
		3:45
	• Putting it into Practice in your MFL Classroom: Practical Strategies which Work	
	• Sustaining Group Talk in MFL as a Feature of Everyday Classroom Practice	
	<b>Restaurant Lunch</b>	
	<b>Making Language Learning Active and Dynamic</b>	
	• Tried-and-Tested Ideas which Really Get Body and Brain Working in Unison	
	• Innovative Strategies to Promote Active Learning in the MFL Classroom	
	<b>Top Tips on Raising Achievement in MFL Speaking Skills</b>	
	<b>Evaluation and close of course</b>	

## About the tutor

**Greg Horton** is an experienced Advanced Skills Teacher at Wildern School, the biggest 11-16 comprehensive school in Hampshire. For the last five years, he has been a Languages Lead Practitioner for the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust.

As well as working locally with individual schools and networks, Greg is regularly invited to deliver training events on a nationwide basis, and beyond. He is a passionate supporter of language learning and is regularly described by delegates as 'inspirational'.

## Booking form

Name Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss/Dr	Job title
Email address for correspondence	
Principal subject you teach	
Tel	Fax
Course date	Course location
School name and address	
County	
Postcode	
Special requirements	

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**How to book:** The cost of the course is £225 plus VAT. This price is valid for all bookings received before the end of August 2011. **Online at:** [www.lighthouse.tv](http://www.lighthouse.tv). **By telephone on:** 0800 587 8880. **By Fax on:** 0845 609 8880. **By post to:** Lighthouse Professional Development Ltd, Waterside House, Basin Road North, Portslade, Brighton BN41 1UY.

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