

Session 6: Major Talks

6.1: Making the Languages Department the most popular in the school

Eva Lamb

If we look outwards across subject boundaries and beyond our classrooms it is possible to make languages the most popular subject in the school – not just with our students, but also with colleagues, leadership teams and parents. We are teaching a subject that really has the potential to transform learning and extend horizons.

This session is designed to support language departments in their efforts to promote languages with a variety of audiences such as school management and governors, colleagues in other departments, parents and, of course, pupils. It will look at a variety of strategies which have been employed successfully by various schools across the country ensuring high uptake of languages post-14.

Eva Lamb is Language College Director at King Edward VII School in Sheffield and Chair of ALL's Yorkshire Branch.

6.2: Languages Reboot

Chris Harte

How do we combine our understanding of effective learning with purposeful pedagogy, technology, real communication and intercultural contexts to create a world-class language learning curriculum? How do we take our system which although not broken is sometimes crashing and running slow and bring it back up to speed. In short, how do we ensure a languages reboot?

Chris Harte is Assistant Head Teacher for Personalisation at Cramlington Learning Village. He is a languages AST, Head of Department, writer (Thinking Through Languages, Francophonie and www.chrisharte.typepad.com) and has been a consultant trainer for 6 years on issues such as developing a thinking curriculum, independence in languages and use of technology.

6.3: Speaking to the Future

Mike Kelly

Mike Kelly will suggest how language education needs to change if it is to contribute effectively to meeting the future language needs of the UK. He will highlight the successes and disappointments of language policy over the last ten years and will present the main objectives of the national campaign, Speak to the Future:

1. Every language valued as an asset
2. A coherent experience of languages for all children in primary school
3. A basic working knowledge of at least two languages including English for every child leaving secondary school

4. Every graduate qualified in a second language
5. More specialist linguists

He will discuss some of the key issues underlying these objectives raise, and will suggest the ways in which language educators can contribute to more effective policies in government, in education and in society more widely.

Professor Michael Kelly is Director of the Links into Languages Programme, the Routes into Languages Programme and the Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies. He is Professor of French at the University of Southampton and has published widely in the areas of French culture and society and public policy and languages. He has completed a substantial project for the European Commission to develop a Profile for language teacher training across Europe <<http://www.lang.soton.ac.uk/profile/>> , which EU member states have been invited to use in appraising their programmes for training language teachers.