

## **David Shanks (Federation MFL Consultant and Lead Practitioner): Case Study to Enhance MFL Provision**

David shared a range of strategies which he and his team have successfully applied across the 46 academies throughout the London area where socio-economic factors are prevalent with 41% of pupils 'disadvantaged' but despite this, with a supportive and pro-active leadership team MFL across the Federation, is reaping awards in terms of increased uptake at KS4 and KS5 and developing staff expertise.

### **Strategies to enhance profile and uptake:**

- Supportive senior leaders
- Focus upon improving teaching and learning in MFL, providing appropriate support for colleagues
- Curriculum and Assessment Design – LSRW and grammar and core knowledge and also centralised assessments, marking and tracking devices
- Phonics and small group work to develop confidence in oral work
- Time Educational Visits carefully; a positive experience before options isn't a bad thing!
- Early identification of potential KS5 students and wrap around support including university visits with a language focus
- Celebrating success in school, with SLT and with home
- Etwinning; Clubs to support and extend language learning and cultural development

David shared advice on using research to develop language and pedagogy within the schools within which he works highlighting specifically as a place for teachers and departments to start with:

- ResearchEd MFL
- The Learning Scientists @acethatstest
- Online Communities and Blogs from MFL teachers
- ALL archive
- TSC MFL Pedagogy Review (2016)
- CCT – Chartered College of Teaching #CCTLangs
- Language Teacher Toolkit (Smith and Conti, 2016)

Pragmatic and purposeful use of technology was another focus to develop language teaching David was passionate about and asked teachers to consider the potential of EdTech in MFL and the impact of this on the language learning experience and attainment. David offered a range of options but was clear that any and all EdTech should add to and deepen the learning experience not detract from it. Purposeful EdTech use can pay dividends for the individual learning experience as well as assist with training and development as well as workload for staff. He also stated that resources can easily be created and shared across departments and schools especially when schemes of learning are the same in this digital age.