

# Activities and ideas for schools

'The buzz created by the event was felt across the whole school and has had very positive repercussions for language awareness'

HEAD OF MFL, INNER-CITY  
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL,  
LONDON

'It wasn't too cumbersome to organise and the repercussions have been amazing'

HEAD OF MFL, INNER-CITY  
SECONDARY SCHOOL, EAST  
MIDLANDS

'Although we are a very small school, we like to feel we are involved'

FRENCH TEACHER,  
ORKNEY

'There was a real buzz around the school'

GERMAN TEACHER,  
DONCASTER

'Lots of fun was had by all'

HEAD OF LANGUAGES, SUFFOLK  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

'We're looking forward to next year's already!'

MFL DEPARTMENT, OXFORDSHIRE

'I love languages and this is the first time I have done so many – it's great'

STUDENT AT CROWN WOODS  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LEICESTER



All the ideas below were reported to us as examples of actual activities undertaken in 2002.

- 1 Language taster sessions in unusual languages – can involve staff and employees, as well as pupils.
- 2 Provide certificates to those who complete the course. Opportunities for pupils to try a range of different languages. Include non-standard varieties of English, too.
- 3 Use taster experience to start up regular lunchtime clubs.
- 4 Learning words and phrases in different languages, e.g. the longest Welsh word, 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes' in Maori.
- 5 Competition to identify flags around the school – pupils say which language is spoken in those countries and what currency they use.
- 6 Festival of languages – tasters of minority languages, films, etc.
- 7 French video on big screen at lunchtime.
- 8 Competition to identify 'hello' and 'goodbye' in different languages and international car number plates.
- 9 Quizzes on general knowledge about other countries – use of ALL quiz (at [www.all-languages.org.uk](http://www.all-languages.org.uk)). Pub quiz formats. Inter-tutor group competitions.
- 10 Alphabet-based language quizzes.
- 11 Use of sixth formers for marking quizzes.
- 12 Treasure hunt – use of stickers as 'bingo card'.
- 13 Artistic/creative activities based on the EDL logo (downloadable from website).
- 14 Design a poster.
- 15 Design and write a holiday postcard in a different language.
- 16 Activities involving speakers of other languages within the school.
- 17 Bilingual pupils teach classes – provide model lesson plan for them to use.
- 18 Greetings in different languages – provide sheet for all staff to use in their classes.
- 19 Take the register in a different language.
- 20 Widespread use of other languages throughout the school – pupils vote for the member of staff who makes the best attempt to speak in a foreign language.

- 21** International or European assemblies with songs performed in different languages. Use of East Riding's assembly pack (for primary).
- 22** Awareness-raising via school bulletin and at open evenings.
- 23** European Awareness Week – all staff asked to promote linguistic/European awareness as opportunities arise.
- 24** Puppet shows, plays and drama in other languages.
- 25** Poetry readings in other languages – with explanations.
- 26** Displays in library and decorations around the school.
- 27** Write a song or poem.
- 28** 'Eurovision song contest' with each class performing a different song. Involve outsiders in judging.
- 29** Food-based activities, e.g. French breakfast, sale of *pain au chocolat* at break, *chorizo* and olives supplied free by local supermarket. Italian and French biscuits at break for staff.
- 30** Whole year-group off timetable – take part in different workshops. Some of these given by outsiders – e.g. Modern Languages department of local university, local business people, ex-students.
- 31** Whole-school involvement – examples from different curriculum areas as follows:
- Food Technology (making risotto and learning phrases such as *al dente*);
  - Dance (flamenco);
  - Art (Day of the Dead in Mexico);
  - History (Louis XIV, famous discoveries/inventions by other nationalities);
  - RE (Hebrew, Arabic, New Testament Greek, 'Our Father' in different languages);
  - Music (translate the school song into different languages, national anthems);
  - Chemistry (French descriptions of the elements);
  - Maths (French and German versions of Math's Challenge);
  - PE (*boules* in French).
- 32** Use of British Council's European Treasure Chest.
- 33** Use of BBC's *Talk the Talk* video, leading to discussions.
- 34** Use of *Talk to me* stickers – students had to collect twelve signatures of staff with different language versions. 'We enjoyed the illusion of popularity as we were mobbed in corridors and asked for our autographs.'
- 35** Introduction to non-Roman scripts.
- 36** Maupassant and text messaging (!)
- 37** Debates: 'A qui l'avenir? L'Angleterre, La France ou les Etats-Unis?'

Thanks to all schools who took part in EDL 2002 and reported the above to CILT.