



Language College Headteachers

*Hilary Jones,
Regional Manager
Links North West*

Links – *the brief*

- To build on the work done by Routes, but with a more centralised focus
- Ten core courses – written by experts to be used across the regions
- Map regional and local provision
- Support regional CPD – events, resources
- Set up Local Centres – focus for training
- Only connect.....

Where do Language Colleges fit in?

- Funding to lead locally on specialism
- Focus on specific issues within family of schools eg. transition
- Centres of excellence and outstanding practice to be shared with others
- Developing the new leaders in languages
- Languages for all
- Dual linguists, accelerated learning, international dimension
- *Not* the main focus for Links, but need to be part of the picture

Important for us to know that LCs have their own issues to deal with – not an easy row to hoe.....



The situation...



- Languages not compulsory post 14
- Languages GCSE exams seen as 'punitive' – have led to stress for teachers and pupils alike
- The alternatives are varied but not always helpful or clearly defined – a lot of misunderstanding
- Shrinking departments, unemployed teachers, reduced salaries, low morale
- Languages dying in some schools (or being killed)
- No pressure or motivation to raise uptake – the 50% target being ignored
- Early entry not a solution as leads to lower grades

Influences

The only people who can influence and affect the uptake of languages in schools are the headteachers of those schools.

(our conclusion as Links managers)

“We asked teachers what they wanted – they preferred the day out on training courses, and a chance to network....”

(Samia Earle, SSAT)

.....oh, and..... ‘rarely cover’.....

The results.....



- Core courses cancelled – few teachers allowed out of schools – missed the planning cycle this year
- The interested coming along to Saturday courses.....(ALL)
- Some resistance
- A lot of positives and welcoming people – and a growing body of work with LAs and schools
- Hard work is bearing fruit – strategic use of funding and collaboration, numbers involved coming up, lots of potential areas for growth and involvement

Question –

what can Links do for Language Colleges?



- The same as we would do for any school – offer CPD courses, open to all, across the region
- Work with SLNs to offer bespoke workshops for groups of staff
- Support initiatives to raise standards and achievement in language learning and teaching
- Support LinkedUp applications and projects
- We have funding that we can use flexibly (supply, venues, catering, speakers) to reach as many schools and teachers as possible
- Put people in touch with each other to their mutual benefit (that's our favourite bit)

What can Language Colleges do for Links?

- Get HOD and other Language Teachers to register with Links (mailing list)
- Let us know of events and other things that you are doing
- Contact us with good ideas, things to share
- Involve us in the work you do within your family of schools – where possible!

CONTACT

Hilary Jones, Regional Manager NW

hilary.jones-2@manchester.ac.uk

0161-306-2070

Links Office:

Room H25, Sackville Street Building

University of Manchester

Sackville Street,

MANCHESTER M1 3DU

0161-306-3924