

North West Language College Headteacher meeting

Friday 12th March 2010 at the SSAT office, Preston

1. Introductions. The following people were present:

Steven Holdup, Dallam School
Louise Crossley, Lead Practitioner – New technologies and languages
Abigail Gregory, Salford University
Alice Harrison, SSAT
Hilary Jones, NW Regional Manager, Manchester University

Donna Brown, St Thomasmore Catholic High School
Claire Hollister, Parklands High School
Chris Kinsey, Lym High School
Paul Moss, Montgomery School
Alan Mottershead, Trinity School
Michael Spinks, Urmston Grammar School
Michael Scott, Lancaster Girls Grammar School

With apologies from:

Carol Austin, Calday School, Wirral
Chris Clarke, QES, Kirkby Lonsdale
Trisha Cornish, Saddleworth School
Alan Davies, Bishop Rawstone School
Margaret Dudley, Oulder Hill Community School & Language College
Simon Duggan, St Anselms
Tim Gartside, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys
John Leigh, Sandbach High School
Liz Nicholls, Ripley St Thomas School
Dana Ross-Wawrzynski, Altrincham Grammar School for Girls.
Amanda Thain, Levenshulme
Geoff Walker, Cockermouth School
John Waszek, St Edwards College, Liverpool
Alf Yates, St Bedes Catholic High School
Patricia Young, Upton Hall School

2. Discussion items

A number of colleagues had been inspected recently, either as part of a full inspection or a subject inspection of languages. In general, the experience had been better than in the past for language colleges. Inspectors appeared to be using the RaiseOnline indicators for languages, ie, % of year group gaining MFL GCSEs, which obviously favour LCs. The value added statistics provided by the SSAT for languages were also very useful for putting a case to inspectors.

A range of alternative accreditation at KS4 was being used in LCs. The writing and speaking Asset tests were proving accessible to students, whereas the reading and listening were harder. NVQs were popular and Trinity was using IBC in year 9.

CLIL teaching was proving highly effective in some schools, and the SSAT would like to appoint a CLIL lead practitioner.

There was a lead practitioner GCSE speaking and writing event at Longdendale on 22 June.

3. National update for language colleges

Alice Harrison updated colleagues on national developments. Her presentation is attached.

4. New technologies and languages

Lead Practitioner, Louise Crossley made an inspirational presentation on applications of blogging, Web 2.0 technologies etc, to language teaching at her school. Use of the freeware technologies was proving highly motivational to students. Her presentation is attached.

5. Links into Languages

Hilary Jones has been appointed NW Regional Manager and is based at Manchester University. She can help schools in a number of ways, including financial support for networking events. Her presentation is attached.

6. Links with HE

Abigail Gregory described language learning opportunities at Salford University and support for schools through Routes into Languages. Her presentation is attached.

Steve Holdup