



Languages Sheffield

The Multilingual City and Complementary Schools Alliance



Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg MP, patron of Languages Sheffield, at the Awards Ceremony for Sheffield Complementary Schools held at The Circle in January 2010. Also in the picture are Julia Podziewska, who organised the event as Complementary Schools Manager, Mike Reynolds (Languages Sheffield) and Joe Hayman, the Acting Director of ContinYou, the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education. ContinYou certificate the Quality Framework project for complementary schools.

Annual report 2009-2010

The Chair's Report:

In writing this, my first report as Chair after a relatively short term as a Trustee, I am very much aware that I still have a lot to learn about Languages Sheffield, but I already know that I am involved with a quality organisation that has an influence that belies its size. The root of this, as Ken Moss said in his report last year, lies in our history of collaborative work and the quality and dedication of our staff, volunteers and trustees. It should also be said we owe much to the leadership of our Secretary, Mike Reynolds.

The past year has been marked by a number of changes that Mike outlines in his Secretary's Report, but I should mention in particular the completion of the Council of Europe Report on Sheffield's Language Education Policies and its signing by the Leader and Chief Executive of Sheffield City Council. This will form the basis of a revision of the Languages Strategy - again a collaborative effort that will form a major part of our Business Plan for the next few years alongside other developments such as the HoLA programme. We have also been involved in exploring possible involvement in languages-focused research that may enhance our future activity.

Our core work continues - maintaining contact with national and local players in the promotion of languages learning, organising events, offering information and support for individuals and organisations, supporting the complementary language schools and so on. It is in the effectiveness of these that our reputation lies and hence the 'mixed economy' in which paid staff, volunteers and trustees all play an active part. Our sincere thanks are due to them all.

Two recent events will in some way affect our future, but in what way we have yet to know. One is the contradictory messages being given out about the status of languages in schools (particularly primary schools) and the other the financial cuts that will inevitably affect all of the public sector, including local government, and inevitably put at risk grant aid for voluntary organisations such as ourselves. The former should spur us to ever greater efforts to bring out the value of languages learning wherever and whenever we can and the latter a determination to continue to seek funds from other sources and to broaden our volunteer base.

Here's to another successful year!

Mike Smith

Financial Summary

The Board of Trustees feels that the position at the year end is satisfactory and they are highly optimistic for the future.

The Board is extremely grateful to Language Sheffield's funders, especially Sheffield City Council, South Yorkshire Community Foundation 'Grass Roots', Sunshine Day Nurseries, Creative Sheffield, Off the Shelf and the many organisations and businesses that have shown their continued faith in our mission. In this regard we are actively making further funding applications with the assistance of dedicated support in submitting the necessary bids.

The Net Assets carried forward at the end of 2010 (compared with 2009) are as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Net assets
2010	(2614)	3883	1269
2009	1336	8778	10114

LS has policies in place designed to address the major financial risks that the Trustees have identified. Among these is the reserves policy, which aims to maintain core funds sufficient to support three months core running costs.

Report from the Complementary Schools Manager

Languages Sheffield is supporting over twenty complementary languages schools in Sheffield. This support includes training provision, mentoring and guidance through a National Quality Framework awards programme, and supporting visits, e-mails and telephone advice.

In February 2009 an awards ceremony was held where four schools were presented with Bronze awards by Nick Clegg, MP. These four schools are now near to completion of their Silver awards - strong evidence of the high quality teaching and learning taking place in our city's complementary language schools. Four more schools are in the final stages of the Bronze award, with two new schools joining the Quality Framework programme this term.

In May we held a successful training day on First Aid for Children, attended by tutors from six complementary schools, and we have provided a series of workshops looking at different aspects of the Quality Framework.

Once again, some complementary schools have achieved excellent results at GCSE with many students gaining A* grades or equivalent. Some learners achieved excellent A-level results, whilst one member school celebrated its learners gaining the national OCR Asset qualifications. Many students attending complementary schools achieve accreditation at a much younger age than average.

Languages Sheffield is a partner in the Home Languages Accreditation Project (HoLA). This consortium between Languages Sheffield, King Edward VII School and Sheffield City Council aims to foster positive links between complementary and mainstream schools, and to recognise the achievements of home language learners with endorsement from the Sheffield Children's University. The pilot project for HoLA is now well underway, and we are eagerly awaiting a decision on a funding bid to make HoLA a three year project. We believe that HoLA is an innovative project which will raise achievement and positively recognise the true value of Sheffield's cultural and linguistic diversity. The team working with complementary schools at Languages Sheffield are Caroline Norman (Complementary Schools Manager), Xiaohua Chen (HoLA Community Liaison Officer), Jane O'Brien (HoLA volunteer) and Ranjit Chakravorty and Julia Podziawska (Quality Framework Mentors). Please feel free to call or e-mail to arrange a visit. Languages Sheffield acknowledges the support of Sheffield City Council as it continues to provide essential funding, together with the involvement of officers in the Learning and Inclusion Service and Neighbourhood Renewal team, for the work described here.

Caroline Norman

October 2010



Secretary's Report

There have been some important changes this year, and some very important new and continuing activities. Among these have been the continuing Language Exchange sessions, organised by Mary Williams in conjunction with Hallam Volunteering at Sheffield Hallam University. The sessions took place once a month between November and May, at the HUBS building on Paternoster Row. Ken Moss, our Chair last year, has also contributed greatly to the Language Exchange. New activities this year have been the celebration of national Adult Learners' Week in May and the European Day of Languages in September. Many thanks to Diane Butters who organised these events: her report on them is elsewhere in this Report.

In February we put on a very successful half day workshop, with the Local Authority, on 'Community Languages and Community Cohesion'. About 40 teachers from the primary sector attended, and many asked that such an event should be followed up. Thanks to Tania Sanders and Huda Ahmed, of EMTAS, for their contribution to this success.

We have produced one edition of Languages Link so far this year, and another is underway.

Work has continued on producing a revised City Languages Strategy, arising from the Council of Europe Language Education Policy Profile that was signed off by the Council Leader (Cllr. Paul Scriven) and the Chief Executive (John Mothersole) in December. We have held five meetings, across city sectors, so far, and the launch date for the Strategy is scheduled for February next year. Associated with this work, we have been successful in incorporating languages in a meaningful way into the city's International Strategy that is about to be launched.

I want to say 'Thank you' to Julia Podziewska, who took over from Jane O'Brien as Complementary Schools Officer in September last year on a 6-month temporary contract. She did excellent work with the Quality Framework for complementary schools, in organising the Awards Ceremony in January for successful schools and in general in keeping the organisation going administratively. Julia is still involved in the mentoring work for the Quality Framework.

Welcome to Caroline Norman, who was appointed Complementary Schools Manager in May this year, and has quickly and effectively got to grips with what is one of Languages Sheffield's core activities, the support of the city's complementary schools.

Welcome, too, to Mike Smith who has taken over as Chair from Ken Moss, to Diane Butters and to Deidre Eastburn as Trustees. Sincere thanks to Dr. Malik and Daniel Klemm, who both resigned as Trustees during the year. Daniel has left Sheffield for a post in West Yorkshire, and Malik is dividing his time between university work in Pakistan and working in Sheffield.

My thanks too, to Emma Redfern of the Council's Voluntary Sector Liaison Team, for the support and advice she has given us through the year, and to the Council for its continuing financial support. We would not survive without it.

Finally, grateful thanks to Jane O'Brien, Margaret Walker, Mary Williams and Ken Moss for their invaluable and regular work as volunteers, and to all my fellow Trustees, old and new.

Mike Reynolds

Events for Languages Sheffield 2010

Adult learners' week

Adult learners week took place 15th 21st May this year. Languages Sheffield promoted adult language learning in the community. In association with tutors from King Edward VII school we held a Language Taster session in the Central Library with participants getting a taste of Spanish, Greek, Japanese and Mandarin Chinese. The event was very well received and it was an excellent opportunity for people to try out new languages. Thank you to all the tutors who took part. Also thank you to Claire Allison from King Edward VII School.



European Day of Languages

This year we coordinated several events to celebrate European Day of Languages which is commissioned by the Council of Europe on 26th September every year. This year we arranged a Language Taster Session, a radio show on Sheffield Live radio station and a Language Exchange.

The language Taster Session was held at The Central Lending Library on Surrey Street where participants had the opportunity to learn Italian, Greek and French. Tutor Niki Burgin held all three tasters which was very enjoyable.

The Language exchange organised by Languages Sheffield was held at Sheffield Hallam University HUBS student union. This was a pre season special event for the European Day of Languages as usually it is run by Hallam volunteers. It was a big success with 10 different tables of languages and over 80 attendees including students and the general public. There will be further Language Exchanges over the coming year.

We produced a radio show on Sheffield Live which was broadcast on the day of European Day of Languages. The show dealt with languages issues including business, education and the use of languages abroad. The radio show is still available as a podcast on www.sheffieldlive.org Jukebox 26 09 2010.

Diane Butters (Trustee)

语言

Idioms

لغات

Linguas

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Margaret Walker

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Ken Moss

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Tammar Asam Abdo receiving his certificate at the Arabic Language School awards ceremony at the Fir Vale Centre on 17 June 2010.

Photo courtesy of 'Burngreave Messenger'

Aims of Languages Sheffield:

- To promote the languages agenda in its widest possible scope.
- To promote & extend existing plurilingualism.
- To encourage lifelong language learning.
- To support the city's complementary schools.

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