

Languages Link – Spring/Summer 2011 Newsletter

Issue 5

Singing in mother tongue event

The first Singing in Mother Tongue event took place on Sunday 13th March in the Winter Gardens in Sheffield. The event was to celebrate International Home Languages day which is celebrated on 21st February around the world as part of a UN initiative. The event was a big success with six of the city's complementary schools taking part.

Club ok Russian School and Playgroup

The Eritrean School

Japanese Study and Playgroup

Sheffield Korean School

Arabic Community Language School

Sheffield Star Mandarin School

Over 80 children and their parents took part in the event dressed in traditional costume. They sang a variety of songs in their mother tongue including traditional songs and national anthems to "Do re me" from the Sound of Music" in Japanese

We are looking to make this an annual event. **Many thanks to everyone who took part.** This was supported by the quality framework...



Korean school



Arabic community language school



Sheffield star mandarin school



Eritrean school



Japanese study



Russian club ok

Quality Framework Awards Ceremony

On Wednesday 16th March Sheffield City Council held their Quality Framework awards for children and schools that recognise children's learning in after school clubs and activities as part of The Children's University. The amount of hours the children put into their after school activities correspond to their award level.

Bronze, Silver, Gold and Ruby Gold, Emerald gold and Platinum gold awards were given out. Some of Sheffield's complementary schools received awards on the evening:

Bronze Award-

Arabic Community Language School

Somali Community and Culture School

Japanese Play Group and Study Group

Silver Award-

Club Ok Russian school and playgroup

Polish Saturday School

Sheffield Chinese School

Sheffield Star Mandarin School



Language Exchange

Language Exchange at Sheffield Hallam University has continued to be a success this academic year. We have again had a variety of different languages spoken at the events with people coming from all over Sheffield to share their languages and pick up new ones. We had over 20 languages represented at Language Exchange with over 200 participants throughout the year.

The next event will be 27th September for the beginning of the academic year. A big well done to Hallam volunteering who have made this year's events so successful.

Language Exchange dates for 2011/2012 academic year:

Tuesday 27 th September 2011	Tuesday 7 th February 2012
Tuesday 8 th November	Tuesday 6 th March
Tuesday 6 th December	Tuesday 24 th April
	May tbc

Funding

Languages Sheffield has managed to secure funding for its core work supporting complementary schools until March 2012. We are currently seeking additional funding for our other activities and we are looking to redevelop our website in the coming year.

City Languages Strategy – coming soon!

At the end of July, the drafting of the revised City Languages Strategy will be completed. After that, it will go through Sheffield City Council's political process and it is hoped that it will be adopted officially by the end of the year or early in 2012.

The Languages Strategy will go together with two other city council strategies, the International and the Community Cohesion Strategies.

The Languages Strategy is the outcome, first of all, of the Council of Europe Language Education Policy Profile (LEPP) signed off by Sheffield's then Council Leader, Cllr. Paul Scriven, and the Council's Chief Executive, John Mothersole, in December 2009. It is also the outcome of the series of meetings of a Steering Group between September 2009 and December 2010. The Steering Group investigated language learning and use in all sectors of education and in business and the public sector, including the health service and the police.

The drafting is being done by two of the Languages Sheffield trustees, Tania Sanders and Mike Reynolds.

HOLA Project- Caroline

Home Language Accreditation Project (HoLA)

HoLA is a project managed by a consortium consisting of Languages Sheffield, King Edward VII Language College and Sheffield City Council. Its aims are to support and develop partnerships between complementary and mainstream schools, to encourage accreditation of home languages, and to record and reward children's home language learning.

Through HoLA, complementary schools have the opportunity to engage in bespoke training and increase the employability of their tutors in the mainstream sector. Children will receive recognition for their studies through the Sheffield Children's University, and parents will be offered the chance to develop and/or accredit their English or home language skills.

The HoLA consortium has made an application to The Paul Hamlyn Foundation to fund a three year project. The bid has now reached the second stage and we are hoping to receive a response in July 2011. In the meantime we have been running a pilot HoLA since June 2010 for which we recruited a Community Liaison Officer – Xiaohua Chen. The pilot has

been hugely successful, with five complementary schools participating. In less than one year, 154 children have registered their language learning with the Children's University and some of these have already accrued enough hours to receive a CU Gold Award.

HoLA is an exciting project which could develop a model of good practice to be replicated nationally.

EVENTS

European Day Of Languages

For European Day of Languages this year (celebrated annually on 26th September), Bay Whitaker and friends will be performing a selection of Babel songs in the Winter Gardens on Sunday 25th September 2011 between 12 noon and 2pm.

Other events for European Day of Languages will be announced soon. Check out our website or Twitter for announcements.

Off The Shelf

We are taking part in Sheffield's Off the Shelf festival in October this year. We are running a Chinese taster and calligraphy session at Highfield Library on London Road on Friday 14th October for adults between 2pm and 4pm. Entry is free and there will be Chinese tea available.

Follow us on Twitter: LanguagesSheff