

SCOOP!

A regional Languages and Journalism Event

Monday 28th November 2011 at Ratcliffe College

Whilst Business Language Champions was a government funded project, our work with independent schools was rather limited. Now we ourselves are independent, we felt it was time to catch up with private sector. The idea for Scoop! had been simmering for some time, and we felt that it would be an excellent project to offer to private schools. We were delighted that Ratcliffe College were keen to host an event and not only did they provide a wonderful venue but they were perfect hosts.

The places for the event were snapped up quickly by a German and a Spanish team from Nottingham High School for Boys, a French and a German team from Nottingham Girls High School, two French teams from the host school Ratcliffe College, a German and a Spanish team from Oundle School and we extended the number of places to offer a place to a French team from Repton School. Our expectations for language content were high and so our teams were principally from Years 12 and 13.



The day started with a keynote talk from Quentin Rayner, a BBC correspondent for the East Midlands. He gave a fascinating insight into his own career and what it takes to be a journalist. He also talked about his own travels abroad as a correspondent and sticky situations that he has encountered when he wished that his language capability was higher, such as being arrested in Red Square without any Russian! Quentin finished by explaining what makes a good news story and we were delighted that he stayed to work with the teams on their challenge.

The main task of the day was to produce a sample Front Page of a newspaper in either French, German or Spanish. The teams received a stream of stories throughout the morning in a mixture of English, French, German and Spanish and they were invited to press conferences on breaking news in one of the languages where they were also able to ask questions. Out of all the stories delivered, they had to decide which were the important stories for their target audience, develop eye-catching headlines, decide what angle to take on the story and of course put the story into their target language. To make matters a little more interesting they also had to negotiate with a multinational company in another language to sell advertising space on their front page.

Having completed their front pages, the teams were asked to present to a panel of judges on their work and justify their layout and choice of stories – in their target language of course.

The judges were impressed with the very high standard of language displayed by all the teams, and in the end chose the German team from Nottingham High School for Boys as the winners. The

winning team will be going on a tour of the BBC East Midlands Studios as their prize and watching a news programme being made.

Teachers comments included:

Michael Tracey was particularly impressed with the pro languages atmosphere and will be recommending the event to colleagues!

Jennifer Pearce NGHS

Thank you so much for the day. The pupils got a lot out of it and particularly enjoyed the opportunity to use their languages outside the classroom for real effect!

Helen Machin, Oundle School



We would like to thank the following Business Language Champions for supporting this event:

- Mark Wingfield from MW Sigma
- Roger Adams, retired UKTI adviser
- Alix Perez, language consultant from Venezuela
- Anna Farzin-nia

and particularly Quentin Rayner from the BBC

We would also like to thank Ratcliffe College for hosting, and in particular Sui Cushing for all her help.

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