

SCOOP!

A regional Languages and Journalism Event

Friday 6th March 2015 at St. George's Academy, Sleaford
Thursday 6th February 2014 at Beauchamp College, Leicester
Monday 4th February 2013 at Netherthorpe School, Chesterfield
Monday 28th November 2011 at Ratcliffe College, Leicester

SCOOP!, which sees teams producing a sample Front Page for a new newspaper, has proven itself to be an exceedingly popular event in our calendar. The idea for SCOOP! had been simmering for some time, and so we were delighted that Ratcliffe College was keen to host the pilot event. Not only did they provide a wonderful venue but they were perfect hosts. SCOOP! is open to all schools and we have had a wonderful mix of schools taking part from both the state and private sector.

Our expectations for language content are high and so our teams are principally from Years 12 and 13. Each team works in either French, German or Spanish.

The day has always started with a keynote talk. At the first event, we were lucky to secure 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 had been



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.

For the past two years we have been honoured to welcome Simon Hart. Whilst Simon is essentially an independent sports journalist, he is principally employed by UEFA – a great draw for students! His talks have taken us on a photographic journey of his adventures in the international sports scene, and he has described how his languages have helped secure his personal

scoops. The added 'wow' factor this year was Simon's offer to take the winning team down to the offices of 'The Independent' in London, where they were given a fantastic insight into the workings of a national newspaper.

The main task of the day is to produce a sample Front Page of a newspaper in either French, German or Spanish. The teams receive a stream of stories throughout the morning in a mixture of English, French, German and Spanish and they are invited to press conferences on breaking news in one of the



languages, where they are also able to ask questions. Out of all the stories delivered, they have to decide which are 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 have to negotiate with a multinational company in another language to sell advertising space on their front page.

Having completed their front pages, the teams are 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.

We are always impressed with the very high standard of language displayed by the teams as well as their enthusiasm, and we congratulate the following winning teams:

2011 - the German team from Nottingham High School for Boys

2013 – the Spanish team from St. George’s Academy

2014 - the Spanish team from Leicester High School

2015 – the French team from Oakham School

Teacher comments included:

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

“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! “

“An absolutely great opportunity for the students. The speech by the UEFA journalist was highly motivational and opened up the idea of languages in the wider world. Thank you for this great idea.”



Student comments included:

“Really great idea!”

“I loved designing the newspaper, and considering the layout, fonts and pictures.”

“The guest speaker (Simon Hart) was brilliant, so get him again”

‘I loved it, thank you.’

“I enjoyed working with my amazing team.”

“Loved the press conference idea. That worked really well.”

“The most useful part of the day was the special guests that helped to inspire us why we study languages.”



We would like to thank the following Business Language Champions for supporting SCOOP! over the past few years:

- Mark Wingfield from MW Sigma
- Roger Adams, retired UKTI adviser
- Alix Perez, language consultant from Venezuela
- Anna Farzin-nia
- David Sly-Jex
- Alec Johns
- Marcus Duffield

•Ralph Nelson-Tucker, from NTA Associates

•Sheila Fisher

•Kathrine Western, from Athena8

- Yvonne Chandler
- Tim Smith from the RAF
- Juliana Abell
- Melissa Kirk, student from the University of Nottingham
- Jack Doughty, student from the University of Nottingham
- Harriet Andrews-Garth, student from the University of Nottingham
- Beatriz Smith, student from the University of Nottingham.

and particularly Quentin Rayner from the BBC and Simon Hart from UEFA

We would also like to thank our various hosts:

- Ratcliffe College, and in particular Sui Cushing
- Netherthorpe School, and in particular Louise Thomas
- Beauchamp College, and in particular Mec Lathom
- St. George's Academy, and in particular Charlotte Tilley

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