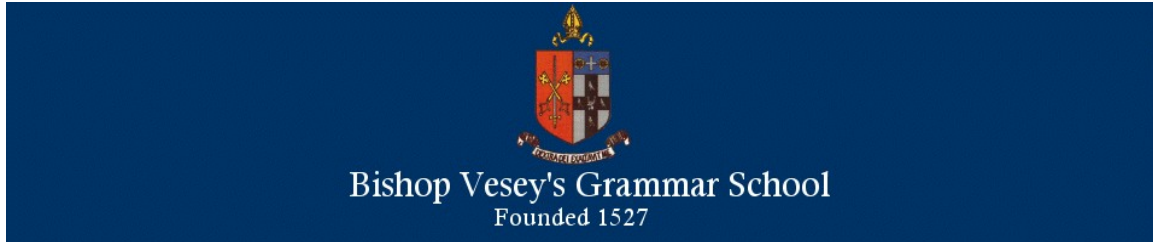


Local pupils come together to get a taste of languages in the world of work

Local businesses, including the Regional Language Network, working with Bishop Vesey's Grammar School.



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, a Specialist Language College located in Sutton Coldfield, provides a lively and dynamic education for boys aged 11 -18 and girls in the sixth form. The school offers a rich and varied pattern of languages opportunities to students with all boys studying French, German and Latin in their first year and later opting to take Spanish or Italian.

As part of Bishop Vesey's commitment to language learning, the school organised a Languages and the World of Work (WOW) Day in December 2005, which was replicated again the following year with the same measure of success.

Year Nine students from ten secondary schools in and around the Sutton Coldfield area visited Bishop Vesey's Grammar School on Friday 1st December 2006 to take part in a variety of vocationally-based workshops linked to foreign language skills.

Local employers and business representatives, including the Regional Language Network (RLN), joined forces with Language College staff to demonstrate the importance of language skills in the world of work.

Students from different schools worked together on a variety of projects from designing an advertising campaign in Spanish for a local chocolate manufacturer, to making arrangements for a consignment of metal to be transported across Europe and dealing with French visitors in a busy city centre hotel.

Susan Merrall, Language College Director, said:

“As part of our community plan, we work with local schools to promote the value of language learning. Our young people gain a good deal from the contributions made by people who are using languages in their working lives.”

After a quirky ice-breaker to get students talking to each other, the RLN workshop offered a language and culture quiz, where students learnt the importance of being able to not only speak their customer's language but understand the business etiquette and culture. Armed with language statistics and cultural anecdotes taken from quiz answers, students designed posters to promote the importance of learning a language.

When all of the workshops were complete, students, teachers and business representatives joined together in the school hall for a prize-giving ceremony and round-up of the morning's events.

Susan Merrall was delighted with the response from students and businesses alike:

“The feedback from the students and staff who visited us that day has been extremely enthusiastic and we are very grateful to the organisations that gave up their valuable time and provided generous prizes for the students. The workshops gave pupils an awareness of languages in the world of work and will be important for their GCSE choices.”

Contact Details:

Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

Lichfield Road
Sutton Coldfield
B74 2NH

T: 0121 250 5400

E: enquiry@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk

W: <http://www.bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk>

Regional Language Network West Midlands

209 Reddicap Heath Road
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands
B75 7EP

T: 0121 329 3297

E: info@rln-westmidlands.com

W: www.rln-westmidlands.com