

Moseley students see languages at work

Galleon Systems working with Moseley School



Moseley School is a large co-educational comprehensive situated 3 miles south east of central Birmingham. The school became a specialist language college in September 2000 and is committed to build on the bilingualism of many of its pupils. Moseley offers French, German and Urdu primarily, followed by options in Japanese, Arabic and Spanish as well as entering pupils for GCSE's in their home language such as Gujarati, Punjabi and Mandarin.

With the language college commitment to raise achievement in the area of modern foreign languages, the school began working with local company Galleon Systems, in June 2007, to encourage students to pursue their language learning further.

Galleon Systems, based in Kitts Green, Birmingham, provides time server products to over 3,000 organisations world wide. As they deal with foreign clients on a day to day basis, they were well placed to host a visit from a group of Moseley pupils, who were part of a cohort of only 80 students in Birmingham taking an NVQ in French for Business as an alternative to GCSE French.

This project is part of the Business Language Champions programme, co-ordinated by the Regional Language Network (RLN) West Midlands. It is designed to bridge the gap between school and the workplace and to reverse the decline in the take-up of modern foreign languages.

After an initial meeting between school, company and RLN, it was decided that the best way to demonstrate the importance of language skills in the workplace was to send a group of students to Galleon's premises to see them in action.

On 18 July 2007, a group of ten 14-15 year olds currently studying French at NVQ level 1 and 2, took a trip to the Kitts Green site. After an introductory talk about Galleon's experience of selling in France and the importance of using multilingual staff, pupils were given a tour of the premises.

Two workshops, run by a French member of staff and teachers from Moseley, allowed pupils to test out their language skills by comprehending and responding to genuine e-mails and answer phone messages received by the company.

Mark Neal, managing director at Galleon Systems, who talked to pupils at the start of their visit, said:

“I am delighted to have welcomed Moseley students to our company to witness first-hand how important language skills are in the day-to-day running of our organisation. I am sure they will benefit from seeing languages in action and I urge other multilingual companies to follow suit.”

James Ludlow, head of languages at Moseley school, added:

“We are very grateful to Mark and the staff at Galleon for taking time out to show our youngsters how vital their current language learning is and for hopefully inspiring them to continue with their studies.”

The school and company intend to build on this partnership and continue to work together to give more pupils the chance to see languages at work and encourage them to continue with their language learning.

A visit to the company for the next Year 10 French NVQ students has already been arranged and the school hopes that Galleon will be involved in their forthcoming Business and Languages Day, to be held for Moseley’s collegiate schools.

Below: Galleon managing director, Mark Neal, welcomes Moseley students to the company’s premises.



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