

NEWS RELEASE

### **Solihull students translate language learning into ‘language earning’**

Students at Lyndon School in Solihull learnt the true value of language skills recently when they were visited by a local translation company.

Liz Athey, operations manager at Roevin Translation Services, a leading UK translation company, visited the Daylesford Road school to speak to students about the importance of language skills in the world of work.

Through interactive presentations, Liz spoke to Year 9 students about the advantages languages bring in the jobs market, the variety of interpreting and translation careers available and the potential salaries of qualified linguists. Students also took part in team quizzes where they had to recognise languages from short paragraphs and guess the most commonly spoken languages worldwide.

This project is part of the Business Language Champions programme, which is co-ordinated by Regional Language Network West Midlands (RLN WM). It is designed to bridge the gap between school and the workplace and to reverse the recent decline in the take up of modern foreign languages. The ‘Champions’ bring language skills alive by highlighting the problems local companies have recruiting staff that can speak more than one language and helping pupils to see how important these skills are in the workplace.

The talks were well received and enjoyed by all, as Giuseppa Mirisola-Haines, Spanish and French teacher at Lyndon School, said:

“I am very grateful to Liz for taking the time to speak with our students. The presentation and quizzes really got our students involved and they were particularly interested to learn about the variety of roles which demand languages and the salaries they could potentially earn if they continue with their studies.

Chris Everall, RLN manager, added:

“With so much bad news in the press about the decline of languages, we are delighted that the Business Language Champion initiative is bringing businesses and schools together to highlight how important language skills are.”

Liz Athey, operations manager at Roevin, was delighted with the response from students....

“I was really pleased with the reaction from students and the way the quizzes got them thinking about languages beyond the classroom boundaries. I hope this has given them an insight into the vast range of jobs available to those with language skills and I look forward to working with the school again in the future”

Lyndon School, a specialist Humanities College, is based in Solihull and teaches French and Spanish. The school is also hoping to introduce Chinese and Arabic, with one member of staff already visiting China for this purpose.

Roevin Translation Services is a leading language translation company with a global network of translation experts. From offices based in Birmingham, London, Manchester and Glasgow, Roevin offers translation, typesetting and interpreting services in a range of languages including French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese.

Business Language Champions is a programme funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and supported by a network of sponsors: BNP Paribas, Goethe-Institut, the National Network of Education and Business Partnerships, Business in the Community and the Comenius Network. It is co-ordinated by the Regional Language Network West Midlands with the support of CILT, The National Centre for Languages.

For further information on Regional Language Network West Midlands visit [www.rln-westmidlands.com](http://www.rln-westmidlands.com).

ENDS

Caption: (left, back) Frances Pallett, Programme Co-ordinator, Regional Language Network, (right, back) Giuseppa Mirisola-Haines, teacher at Lyndon School, (centre, front) Liz Athey, Operations Manager at Roevin Translations with students from the winning quiz team.

*Issued by Regional Language Network West Midlands. Media contact is Frances Pallett on 0121 329 3297 or 07789 116818*

**Notes to editors**

Regional Language Network West Midlands offers a one-stop shop for language and cultural expertise for businesses in the region. Acting as the gateway to language services, courses and jobs within the region, the network helps SMEs to realise their export potential through improving their international communication. By helping companies to find solutions to language and cultural barriers it aims to trigger greater international trading boosting investment, job creation and business' bottom lines.