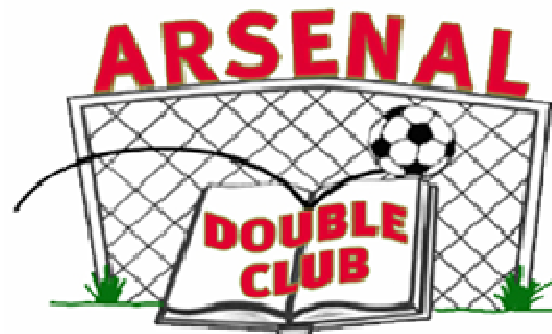


Arsenal Double Club: firing up a passion for languages and sport



Arsenal Football Club's innovative 'Double Club' scheme was founded in 1998 – a 'Double' winning season for the Gunners – with a focus at that time on numeracy and literacy skills. It uses Arsenal resources and football-based classroom exercises to make learning across a range of subjects fun and relevant to children's interests. Since we first reported on the launch of their Key Stage 3 German Double Club in 2005 and French and Spanish Double Clubs in 2007, the languages programme has gone from strength to strength.

48 schools visited the Emirates Stadium in 2009

April 2009 saw the launch of the primary Double Club for German, French and Spanish which has been piloted in local Islington schools. This new initiative fits perfectly with the requirement at Key Stage 2 for 45 minutes of language learning.

At Key Stage 3, development of new resources and work with schools nationwide continues apace. During 2009, 48 schools from London and the rest of UK have visited the Emirates Stadium on 'Language Days' – the culmination of the programme – some coming from as far afield as Devon and Wales.

Linking with football clubs in the UK and overseas

Languages Consultant for the Double Club Julie Stoker is tasked with more than just running a successful programme at Arsenal. With funding from the DCSF, she is creating links with football clubs across the UK, sparking interest even from outside the sport. A German KS3 programme will be piloted by Chelsea in January 2010 with local school Chelsea Academy. Portsmouth FC, Southend United, and Yeovil FC

Date

October 2009

Schools involved

128 (2005-2009)

KS3 students involved

3,000 (2005-2009)

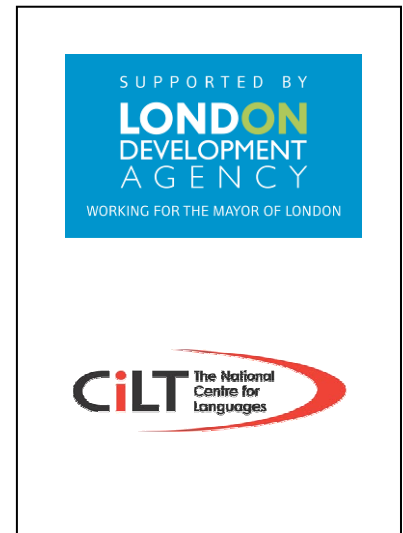
are also developing new languages modules, while Bath Rugby Club has already developed its own French language programme.

Activities don't stop in the UK. Schools that have taken part in the Double Club can apply to join the overseas exchange programme, funded by the European Commission and the Goethe Institut, where they can be linked with a football club and a partner school in the relevant country. To date schools have visited Brussels (Anderlecht RSC) and Berlin (Hertha Berlin). Trips are planned to Nancy and Seville.

Plans to promote Community Languages

With over 3,000 young people involved in Arsenal's Double Club over the first four years, numbers of students encouraged to learn languages through sport are set to increase

exponentially – as more clubs come on board, and more languages are on offer every year. Arsenal's latest plans include adding Community Languages to their programme through collaboration with Routes into Languages 'Capital L' and Canning House – starting with Portuguese, which is being piloted at Lambeth Academy.



Find out more

For more information about Arsenal Double Club and their activities, visit www.arsenal.com/doubleclub or contact Julie Stoker at jstoker@arsenal.co.uk.

For more on the Business Language Champions programme and Arsenal's previous case study, visit www.rln-london.com/champions.

