

Case study



Language services agency helps students to connect with careers in interpreting



Translation and interpreting agency Language Connect has completed the first in a series of interactive school workshops aimed at promoting to secondary school students the benefits of language learning, especially from a career perspective.

Working with The Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College, a school with a large number of students speaking English as a second language, Language Connect designed and ran a workshop in February 2010 for sixteen Year 10 and 11 students whose first language is Polish. The aim was to show students that their natural language ability could lead to university and even a career in the language services industry.

Following an introduction to the language services industry, students got to meet Aleksandra, a Polish language interpreter. She demonstrated with colleagues some typical interpreting scenarios to show students the basic principles. The students then created and acted out their own role play dialogues in scenarios such as a doctor's surgery and a courtroom. The best role plays were rewarded with Language Connect certificates. A question and answer session then gave students a chance to find out more about getting on a career path in translation or interpreting.

A real eye opener for students

Asked what she thought of the workshop, one student commented that "it was a wonderful and useful experience that gave us a greater understanding of translation and interpretation. We particularly enjoyed the practical exercise." Iwona Stepien, Partner at Language Connect and native of Poland, added: "It was great to see the enthusiasm and creativity of the students. I think it was a real eye-opener for the students, teachers and for us. I was also pleasantly surprised at the number of students requesting work experience placements." Following the success of the event, Language Connect plans to run a workshop for Portuguese-speaking pupils at the school.

Find out more

Language Connect www.languageconnect.net
Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College www.cjmlc.co.uk

For more on Business Language Champions in London, visit
www.rln-london.com/champions

