

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional, ESF-funded 'Careers Local' programme
Curriculum Provision	✓	For a new KS3 scheme of work designed to engage students
Employer Partnerships	✓	Involving a busy, established SME employer in the city centre
Reflective Young People	✓	Students self-assessed skills, aspirations and motivation
Informed Career Choices	✓	Raising awareness of the value of language skills in work

### French restaurateur benefits from year 8 students' imagination and translation skills

East Leake Academy is located on the Loughborough side of Nottingham and is part of the Diverse Academies Learning Partnership. The brief from the MFL faculty stated what they were hoping to achieve with year 8 students: *'Increased confidence in student-led use of vocabulary and spoken word in the target language and greater student awareness of importance of languages in the wider world. Increased interest in languages and also raised self-confidence amongst students in terms of the how much impact their work with a foreign language can make within the working world.'*

The website for the 'French Living' restaurant says, *'Since 1994, this delicious Gallic haven, presided by charismatic Corsican Stéphane Luigi, has created a tiny piece of France in the centre of Nottingham'*. It is located in a city centre block of old buildings that was part of a long-term refurbishment. Scaffolding was obscuring the signage and the work was having a negative effect on trade.

Stéphane agreed to challenge the students to create material that could be used on their social media sites to promote the genuinely French experience offered by the restaurant. This took the form of an informal, 3-minute video clip recorded on a mobile phone in his restaurant – and spoken in French. Students had to translate his challenge, research his restaurant and produce a short piece of written work in both English and French. A bundle was sent to Stéphane, who chose what he thought was the best work, making the announcement when he visited the school a week later.

### Benefits for the Students

- *'I can speak some French which could help me in my later life'*
- *'I'm proud that I came second and found out that I am Okay at French'*
- *'Learning about food that French people eat and what French restaurants look like'*
- *'It makes me feel like I'm helping someone ... and we're learning French in a different way'*
- *'I liked how you got to interact with other people and share ideas and use your imagination'*
- *'I am most proud of the fact that in my letter I didn't use google translate at all'*

### Benefits for the School

- *'It puts (MFL) into action for them; it broadens their horizons and it just makes them think that there's a point to learning a language. It's not just going into a classroom and leaving the language there. It can help them with moving forward with their future aspirations'*
- *'They've loved it. They really engaged with it. The minute they saw the clip of Stéphane in his restaurant and they could look at his website to see what he offered, they were hooked. Even some of the more reluctant learners were intrigued from the very beginning'*

### Benefits for the Employer

- Stéphane had visited other schools to speak about French and his restaurant. This project was much less time-consuming in terms of time in school and preparation.
- Business had been affected by the long-term work on the building. This project promoted his restaurant among students' families and provided material for use in social media.
- *'I very much enjoyed my visit to East Leake this morning. I cannot believe how well behaved these youngsters are. I don't remember being as well polished at their age'.*



City centre restaurant 'French Living' is run by a Frenchman, with most staff from his homeland too. Trade had been affected by long-term building work, so he asked year 7 students to come up with social media messages about the authentic French cuisine and special ambience. His video message, shown in the classroom, was recorded in the restaurant and spoken in French.