

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of an academy group series of pilot projects
Curriculum Provision	✓	Developing vocabulary and self-learning in year 9
Employer Partnerships	✓	Commitment from local hotel to provide ongoing support
Reflective Young People	✓	Whole year group completed online self-assessment
Informed Career Choices	✓	Promoted global career opportunities in hotel trade

City centre hotel challenges year 9 students to apply their language skills to help foreign guests

The Farnborough Academy in Nottingham has to manage apathy from many students about the value of Modern Foreign Languages for study at Key Stage 4 and beyond. Located in the middle of a large housing estate with high levels of deprivation and worklessness, there are often few role models to inspire interest in the subject.

The MFL faculty decided to run a project with students as they were considering their KS4 options, aiming to excite interest in the subject. Partnering with a city centre hotel, students were challenged to, *'... come up with fresh ideas about how Strathdon Hotel can help guests from other countries find out about facilities in the rooms and discover what's so great about Nottingham.'*

Working in their normal classrooms and with their usual teachers, students learned about the challenge through a video clip from the hotel manager and received background information about its location, facilities and interest in customer care. They also knew he would be viewing their work and judging which would be most suitable for use by the hotel, when greeting guests from abroad.

Working in small groups, students had a few weeks to prepare a leaflet about Nottingham, translated into either German or French and hand-illustrated. A staffing crisis at the hotel prevented the manager from attending the final assembly, although he provided a 'Sorry I can't be with you' video clip with a message about the quality of the work, his intention to include copies of the work in welcome pack for foreign guests – and the two groups he judged had produced the best work.

Benefits for the Students

- *'I am most proud of my work because I learned how to spell some words in French.'*
- *'I have thought a lot about my options and opportunities that I have when I leave school.'*
- *'I could say some words in the French and could spell more.'*
- *'Expanding my German writing and understanding of international business – and why it is important to learn a language.'*
- *'Working in a team, improving my French, thinking about my future and options.'*

Benefits for the School

- The project engaged a whole year group, without any need to disrupt normal lessons or even change existing schemes of work.
- The online survey revealed the impact, including development of Teamworking (76%), Communication (50%) and Positive Attitude (41%) skills.
- Comments from students and classroom attitudes revealed that students had helped them see the potential of foreign languages to create career options they had not considered.

Benefits for the Employer

- Strathdon Hotel is a two star hotel in the city centre, surrounded by other budget-priced competitors. The project created a PR opportunity to promote the hotel.
- The general manager was initially cautious about the amount of time the project would require. In fact, the video clips – including the final message – took only minutes to record.
- Having seen how the challenge worked and the impact it had on so many young people, the hotel has expressed interest in being involved in other, similar school projects.

The experience helped me to: (Tick those that personally apply to you)

Benefit	Percentage
Learn about opportunities in life after I leave school	28.95%
Learn about what is expected of me in working life	35.84%
Learn about my individual personal skills and abilities	47.37%
Think about my personal choices and future direction	27.19%
Set personal targets and make plans for my future	28.07%

Restaurants

- Il y a peachy keens, Nandos, Red Hot Buffet et beaucoup d'autres restaurants.
- J'aime aller à peachy keens parce que la pizza est délicieuse.
- Mes parents aiment aller à peacocks près de Clifton, parce que c'est délicieux et l'ambiance est amicale.
- Je recommande qu'on visite Nandos parce que c'est assez bon marché et j'aime le poulet.
- Je trouve five guys bien, c'est un restaurant avec les spécialités d'hamburger et c'est fantastique mais un peu cher.

Students produced leaflets in French and German for Strathdon Hotel's overseas guests. Self-evaluation recorded the impact on their motivation, aspirations and skills.