

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Curriculum projects written into the school's CEIAG plan
Curriculum Provision	✓	One of three subject areas chosen for exemplar projects
Employer Partnerships	✓	Involving a local organisation in a non-standard sector
Reflective Young People	✓	All students used the online self-assessment tool
Informed Career Choices	✓	Providing a positive example of local opportunities

Year 8 students provide safety information and a warm greeting for ships' crews from the Philippines

The original brief from the head of Spanish at Thornaby Academy in Stockton-on-Tees stated that, 'MFL often dismissed as KS4 and Post-16 options – 'What's the point?'' and described the ideal outcome as, 'Anything that shows the value of MFLs and raises interest in learning'.

PD Ports operates Teesport, one of the largest deep-water container ports in the North of England. Dozens of lorries arrive every day from around Europe with containers to be loaded and unloaded from ships – many of which have Spanish-speaking crews from the Philippines. PD Ports acknowledged that safety information for visitors to the port was rather officious and was sometimes translated using Google Translate.

PD Ports is keen to raise its profile as a major local employer and that of the Logistics sector in general. As well as providing information about its operation and short corporate videos, students were given examples of safety documents currently handed out to ships' crews and drivers.

Two senior managers visited the school to speak to year 8 students, explaining their interest in fresh ideas about the safety documents and confirming that they would return to see the students' work three weeks later, when groups of students presented their work at an exhibition event.

Using judging criteria based on the original brief, one group was selected as an overall winner. Although a close competition, the teachers felt this group's work involved better use of Spanish. The managers from PD Ports told students that all the leaflets would be circulated among senior colleagues at the head office before involving some students in finally deciding how communication of safety information would be improved for visitors to the port.

Benefits for the Students

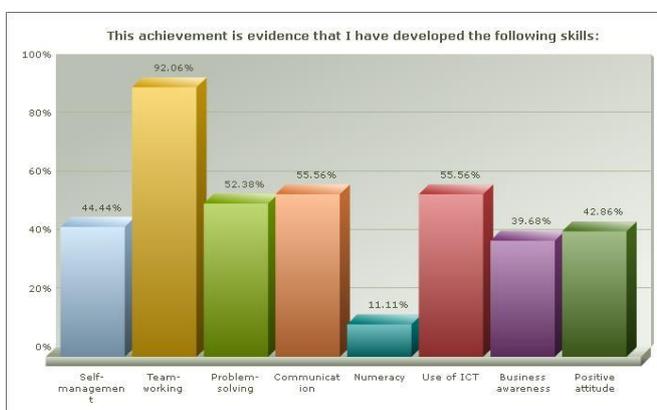
- In particular, the project helped students learn about '*... opportunities in life after I leave school*' and '*... individual personal skills and abilities*'
- I am proud, '*... that I know now what people come into this country delivering goods*'
- '*...of the way the board looks and how we worked as a team*'
- '*...that the board is stylish and the leaflet is almost perfect Spanish*'

Benefits for the School

- *'It's not the teacher marking ... it's someone from a famous company in Teeside ... judging them and giving some feedback ... that's what makes them excited'*
- *'They learned vocabulary for all the safety rules in the classroom ...the welcome message was unique to each team and I needed to give some extra help'*
- *'It is hard work ... it is outside what we normally do in school ...the value to me it that they see the importance of learning another language'*

Benefits for the Employer

- The project supported PD Ports' existing commitment to raise its profile among schools and colleges as a major local employer and a leading player in the Logistics sector
- Attending the launch assembly and final exhibition required no preparation and a limited amount of time, but had an impact on a year group of students
- The project focused on MFL, but discussions with the school's deputy principal identified other subject areas that could also be brought to life through partnership with PD Ports



Most students previously knew nothing about this major employer on Teeside. Responding to the challenge required them to develop their Spanish skills and discover the importance of MFL.