

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of an academy group series of pilot projects
Curriculum Provision	✓	Encouraging KS4 students to practice language skills
Employer Partnerships	✓	New partnership with local SME start-up business
Reflective Young People	✓	Providing extra content for UCAS personal statements
Informed Career Choices	✓	Positive image of entrepreneurship and restaurant trade

### Year 12 MFL students practice Spanish language skills while volunteering at a local Tapas bar

Encouraged by an inspiring MFL teacher, Spanish is a popular post-16 option at Rushcliffe School in Nottingham. Concerned that students were not developing confidence in using their language skills – an important requirements for the oral part of examination – the teacher agreed to offer students an opportunity to work as Spanish-speaking staff for monthly ‘Spanish Evenings’ being held at a new tapas bar in the City’s Cultural Quarter.

Initially involving a group of four ‘Language Ambassadors, the students designed badges to wear on their work aprons that encouraged customers to speak Spanish with them while they filled up their plates at the ‘Big Pan Paella’, also taking orders for drinks and deserts and helping to provide good customer service. They also interviewed resident Spanish guitarist, Alfredo, in Spanish, along with owner/manager Matt Longford. – writing up a report for the school newsletter.

#### Benefits for the Students

- Students were initially nervous, but positive, about getting involved with this optional and unpaid workplace experience.
- *‘... put what we’ve learned in the classroom into practice in real life – using our skills.’*
- *‘... something different – plunged into the culture of Spain – something unfamiliar – outside the classroom.’*
- *‘You get told these days about standing out – making sure you’re not just one of many – that you have something different. I think this is definitely one of those things.’*

#### Benefits for the School

- Initially unsure about how an employer might contribute to classroom learning, the teacher was afterwards keen to continue the monthly arrangement with the tapas bar.
- *‘It was a great evening. The students were really positive and worked hard!’*
- *‘Matt and his staff were very complimentary of them, which was a relief.’*
- Another MFL department in one of other schools in the Trent Academy Group is keen to involve their students in the same monthly opportunity to develop language skills.

### Benefits for the Employer

- 'Spanish Evening' is run on the last Thursday each month. Partnership with the school provides a steady supply of enthusiastic young Spanish speakers to enhance the events.
- Creating a positive relationship with young people – and, indirectly, with their friends, families and teachers – the link likely to create new business for the new restaurant.
- Matt Longford is an entrepreneur and runs a successful tapas bar – but he does not speak Spanish. The link with an MFL faculty presents an opportunity to change that.





## Spanish Evening

Last Thursday of Every Month

Live music by Alfredo Ortega  
 Welcome drink (1/2 Estrella or Glass of Sangria)  
 2 'select' Tapas  
 Big Pan Paella (Chicken & Mushroom) Veg Option Available  
 & Fideos with Fish

£15 per person payable on the night  
 Book your table to avoid disappointment  
 (we are only small after all)

Arrival around 7-7.30pm  
 Paella ready for 8pm, Music from 7.45pm

Tel: 0115 941 2669  
 Email: dine@thetapasstry.co.uk




Matt Longford offers monthly Spanish evenings at his new tapas bar in Nottingham's trendy Cultural Quarter

Students with the boss, the chef and other staff around the 'Big Paella Pan'

Students interview Spanish guitarist Alfredo Ortega during the evening

