

Jane Harvey (President of Association for Language Learning): Supporting Engagement and Promoting Enjoyment in MFL Learning

Jane shared data from the Language Trends report:

- The decline in uptake at KS4 from 2002 (76%) through to 2014 (49%)
- Key geographical and socio-economic differences in uptake - 74.5% in the South East compared with 40% in the North East reinforcing Ian Bauckham's address
- Disproportionate time for language lessons in KS3 impacting upon uptake
- The continued decline in languages at KS5

In response to this data, Jane shared how through three projects in Monmouthshire, she is directly involved in inspiring linguists through food technology, the Gruffalo and Language Futures! Jane has found herself working alongside a professional chef to inspire students with a keenness for languages and food technology through the Eurocook project where students are using and developing their language skills to learn kitchen skills with a professional chef to plan, source, prepare and cook a celebration lunch.

Year 5 students are learning German through everyone's favourite forest creature; the Gruffalo, such was the engagement and enjoyment of learning German with the assistance of the Gruffalo that this spread across the school resulting in a Gruffalo themed lunch for the whole school.

Jane shared the innovative on-line project-based learning ideals of Language Futures highlighting the options available and the philosophy that allows students to be truly autonomous in their learning and choices and aspects to learn about developing crucial skills such as becoming a truly independent learner in MFL.