

## Taking steps towards CLIL

Lead institution: Aston University

A LinkedUp project has been developing an innovative model which aims to introduce Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) into West Midlands secondary schools, and to support teachers in bringing CLIL into their teaching. The project titled 'Taking steps towards CLIL' began in November 2010 with a visit to a Northamptonshire school which has been using CLIL since 2008. Project leaders Dr Sue Garton and Dr Fiona Copland, from Aston University's Languages and Social Sciences department, now hope the scheme will help other interested schools and teachers to introduce CLIL into the classroom.

The project involved secondary school teachers in planning a series of lessons with the support of language tutors from the university. Teachers Natalie Shedden from Myton School in Warwickshire and Sally Wood from Idsall School in Shropshire initially spent a day at Chenderit School in Northamptonshire talking to teachers and observing them using CLIL in the classroom, before preparing and teaching their own classes.

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Dr Garton explained the rationale for the project: "CLIL is quite widely used in English language teaching in Europe and we wanted to see if we could find a way of helping teachers in our region to introduce it into their teaching. It doesn't seem to be that widespread even though the evidence is that students benefit considerably. They are still able to perform at the same level in their subject, whether maths, geography or IT, but they also make gains in the language. The pupils are very motivated and really enjoy it."

The Myton and Idsall teachers each taught three geography lessons in French and German respectively, observed by the university tutors, with another cycle of lessons planned. Dr Garton said: "With CLIL, the main obstacles are time and the co-operation of subject specialists, but the success in this project has been the enthusiasm of the teachers."

Judith Woodfield, deputy head at Chenderit School, added: "We were delighted to support this project because CLIL has produced amazing achievements. We managed to get Year 7 students writing six-page essays on the tropical rainforest in French."

All the materials that the partner teachers have used during the course of the project will be made available on the LinkedUp resource finder for other classroom staff to download and use, including PowerPoint presentations and worksheets for Year 7 and Year 9 students.



You can download resources from this project by visiting the LinkedUp resource finder and searching for West Midlands under 'regions'. Please note that resources may not be online until late spring 2011.

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