

X: @ThamesWestLH
Instagram: thameswestlh

Email: info@thameswestlanguagehub.org.uk
Website: www.thameswestlanguagehub.org.uk

CPD Day

We hosted our 5 partner schools at Ada Lovelace CofE High School for our Spring term CPD day. We focussed on foundations for success and curriculum planning. It was a fantastic day sharing best practice from across our schools:

- Dormers Wells High School
- Oak Wood School
- Springwest Academy
- Barnhill Community High School
- Nower Hill High School



Languages for All Roundtable

We enjoyed attending the Languages For All roundtable event at Kings College London recently.

Lots of ideas and resources were discussed and shared around how we can increase modern language student numbers at A Level and degree level.



Onatti Spanish and German Plays

Working with Onatti theatre company again was a pleasure and we hosted Spanish play Primera Cita (First Date) at our affiliate school Ealing Fields High School in February. Students from partner schools Barnhill Community High School, Nower Hill High School and Springwest Academy were able to join us for the performance.

Onatti came to Ada Lovelace in March when we were transported to a campsite for Auf dem Campingplatz. Year 8 students from Ada Lovelace and Year 9 students from our affiliate schools William Perkin and Twyford enjoyed the play which was performed entirely in German and really tested their comprehension skills and ability to work things out from context. We are particularly proud of two Ada Lovelace students who were invited onto the stage for the duration of the play, becoming a part of the troupe. Their pronunciation in German was faultless and they were even able to improvise in the foreign language!



NCLE filming

A film crew spent a day at Ada Lovelace CofE High School recently. They filmed a Year 7 French lesson and a Year 8 German lesson and interviewed our Hub Leads. They also filmed a pupil panel where our students spoke about why they like learning a language and the benefits of speaking another language.



Shout Out for German

MFL teacher Mr Hunt from Twyford CofE High School featured in their media campaign '#ShoutOutForGerman!' from 17-21 March, promoting German language and culture.



Deutsche Schule visit



Ada Lovelace hosted students from the Deutsche Schule London as part of #ShoutOutForGerman week. Students visited German lessons and participated in speaking activities to get to know each other and share cultural experiences of German and UK schools.

Holy Family Project

We have completed our first term of teaching KS2 German at Holy Family Catholic Primary School, in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut. Years 3, 4 and 5 have been following the story of Wuschel, created by Axel Scheffler and the Goethe-Institut. Students had one lesson per week and have made superb progress. We are looking forward to sharing our progress soon via the NCLE language teacher platform, especially since we have welcomed in a film crew to follow some of the lessons.

Holy Family also hosted some students from Deutsche Schule London during #ShoutOutForGerman week to support lessons and enjoy a bilingual lunch. Headteacher Mr Doherty said "Thursday was fantastic - we were so impressed by the German pupils and our children really enjoyed the day".



At the Making the Case for German conference at the Goethe-Institut Ms Lyon met Dr Daniela from The Europa School UK, who is also teaching primary German using the Wuschel resources.

We also presented on our pilot programme teaching German at KS2 at Holy Family in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut at the ALL conference.



German workshop at Francis Holland



Students from Ada Lovelace and affiliate schools Twyford CofE High School and William Perkin CofE High School took part in a German workshop hosted by Francis Holland School in January. GCSE students completed German drama performances, while A-level students enjoyed university lectures delivered by UCL, Warwick and Bristol on German history, film and translation.

Anthea Bell competition

Lead school Ada Lovelace has made some impressive submissions to the 2025 Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators run by The Translation Exchange at Queen's College. The competition promotes language learning and inspires creativity in the classroom. Winners will be announced in May/June.

Arabic Reading Competition

Ada Lovelace students are taking part in the Arabic Language Reading Competition 2025, arranged by The Arabic Teachers' Council in London and Southern England and supported by the HHCL Advisory Group and the ALL Arabic Zone. Students chose a poem to recite in front of a panel of sixth formers from affiliate schools Twyford CofE High School and William Perkin CofE High School. Our three winners are going forward to the next round in May.

