



Baccalaureate Support Event Report

Introduction

A support event for the Scottish Baccalaureate in Languages was held on 9 March 2010 in the Radisson Hotel in Edinburgh. The event was aimed at centres not yet delivering the new award but planning to deliver in the future. It focused on the experience of colleagues in the first year of the award and how to plan for the future. Forty-six delegates attended the event from twenty-eight centres but there was also representation from local authorities and the higher education sector.

Presentations

The event was introduced by Robert Quinn, Head of Humanities and Social Subjects, who welcomed the delegates and talked about the excellent progress which had been made in the first year of the award. Robert reminded delegates of the structure of the Baccalaureate in Languages and the principles of the Interdisciplinary Project. He then talked about the programme for the day, gave some background information about the speakers and introduced Lorna Grant, the Baccalaureate Development Manager.

Lorna gave an overview of the first session with an update on the number of centres/candidates, the partnerships, which have formed, the external links and the collaborative work being done by both pupils and staff. She also described the interdisciplinary work including the team approach being taken by Science and Languages staff in some centres. Lorna stressed the advantages of the Interdisciplinary Project to the learners in terms of skills development and the bridge which it provides between school and higher education or employment. She also talked about the support being provided by universities with the projects and the importance of the value which the HE sector is giving to the Baccalaureate. **For details please select Lorna's presentation.** She then introduced the following three colleagues who are delivering the Baccalaureate in Languages in session 2009/10:

- ◆ Pam Tosh, Broughton High School
- ◆ Vicki Simpson, St Kentigern's Academy
- ◆ Lyn McCartney, Madras College

The presenters talked about the projects, the excellent work done by pupils, some of the challenges and how these were met. They described the project themes, how the research was carried out, how the findings were presented and how the pupils evaluated both the project and their own skills development. The variety of projects and products was really inspirational and the experience for all has been overwhelmingly positive. It was also very interesting to see some of the pupils' comments. **For details please select the three presentations.**

Robert then introduced Chris Tinker, Head of Languages at Heriot-Watt University, who talked about the language courses available for undergraduates as well as the postgraduate and research opportunities. Chris looked at the skills development required for the Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Project and linked this to the skills requirement in the first, second and third years of the degree courses. He emphasised the value of the Baccalaureate as an excellent preparation for university and informed delegates that the University Council for Modern Languages is currently writing a public statement of support for the Baccalaureate in Languages.

The last presentation was given jointly by Sarah Breslin and Hannah Doughty from Scottish CILT, who described Scottish CILT's role and talked about the support they are offering centres with the delivery of the Baccalaureate. They highlighted the benefits of the award for learners and the support from employers' bodies, higher education, further education etc and stressed the importance of the award in raising the status of Languages as an area of study. Sarah and Hannah also drew delegates' attention to their annual conference on 25 May 2010. **For further details please select the Scottish CILT presentation.**

Workshop session

After lunch, delegates moved into workshops and discussed the development of a proposal and plan based on a suggested project theme. **For further details please select workshop task.** This activity stimulated a great deal of valuable discussion and raised many questions. Each group fed back key points of the discussion during a plenary session.

The response to the event was very positive and a great deal of interest was shown in delivering the Baccalaureate in session 2010/11.