

Case study



Modern Languages for Life and Work Award (SCQF levels 3 and 4) — Broughton High School

Background

In 2012/13 we delivered the *Modern Languages for Life and Work Award* at SCQF levels 3 and 4. The Award was undertaken by a group of 14 students (boys) in S3. These pupils had issues around their self-confidence and self-esteem and were selected to undertake the Award by the school.

Why did we choose the *Modern Languages for Life and Work Award*?

Many of the pupils had previously struggled to engage with education and were at risk of achieving few qualifications by the end of S4. Positive destinations were also a concern. Our intention in delivering the new Award was to ensure that by the end of S3 the pupils achieved their group Award and experienced success.

For a small number of pupils with low literacy levels the Award was also preferable to National 3 as writing is not assessed in the Award, although it remains a feature of learning and teaching.

In addition, as the Award contributes towards the school's attainment statistics our senior leadership team were keen to support it. The fact that it was an alternative route to success for the pupils was also appealing.

Delivering and assessing the *Modern Languages for Life and Work Award*

The Award was delivered and assessed solely by Modern Languages staff with some support from the Careers Advisor. As the pupils undertook the Award in S3, there were no other qualifications delivered alongside the Award.

The main benefits were:

- ◆ A focus on employability: two Units focus on practical employability skills such as interview skills, CV writing, searching for jobs. The pupils understood the relevance of the Award to their future careers.
- ◆ Assessment as a naturally occurring element of learning and teaching: pupils can be assessed during day-to-day learning and teaching. For the teacher, assessment is manageable and not at all onerous.
- ◆ Personalisation and choice in the *Modern Languages for Life* Unit: pupils are able to choose the focus of this Unit based on their interests.
- ◆ Studying two languages within the same Award: French in the *Modern Languages for Life* Unit and Spanish in the *Modern Languages for Work Purposes* Unit. Pupils enjoyed this variety.
- ◆ A tangible reward. Pupils received their paper certificate on completion of the Award — for most around Easter.

There were 13 candidates who completed the full Award and one who achieved two out of the three Units.

Some of the students have recently left school to pursue college courses in S4. Others are working towards National 3 and National 4 in Spanish and a small number chose not to continue to study a language after achieving their Award.