

languages ICT

Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4

Key interactive resources

The Key interactive resources outlined in this document complement the Key resources and the language-specific advice sheets which go together to make up the 'Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4' series.

The key interactive resources outlined in this document comprise sites considered to be valuable for all teachers of languages at Key Stage 4. In many cases they offer resources in more than one language, and, in fact, may be useful at other Key Stages.

The sites identified as key interactive resources were all researched in the early part of 2008 and references made to content or layout reflect the sites at that time. It is hoped that the suggestions, comments and advice will remain relevant should revisions or adjustments be made to the sites researched.

In identifying these sites as key interactive resources, no claim is made that the list is exhaustive. The sites were selected because of their relevance, the range of their resources and the many opportunities they present for enhancing the teaching and learning of languages at Key Stage 4.

Ashcombe Language College, Ashcombe School Surrey – www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/curriculum/modlang/index.htm (researched March 2008)

The site contains sections for students, teachers and Heads of Language Departments and has a wealth of ideas, advice and ready made language teaching and learning activities across the major languages and topic areas.

All GCSE topics are covered in French, Spanish and German, with some coverage of Italian and Mandarin Chinese.

For teaching and learning

In the Student Activities section, in the Video on demand section each language is divided into a list of topics according to the MFL Programme of Study. Within each topic area there is a video of a native speaker and a gap-fill activity based on the text on screen. The activities, which vary in difficulty, can be completed and marked on screen by a student working at home or in the ICT room. Alternatively, they can be used for whole-class listening activities where the gap-fill activity can be printed off and handed out.

There are also other ready-made Hot Potatoes and Task Magic activities. Hot Potatoes is free for educational use but it is necessary to purchase the Task Magic software. However, students can download a free Home version of this product and thus access materials remotely. There is also a list of accented characters, some Year 10 extension activities, and useful web links divided into different topics.

In the Teachers' section the photo resources are useful. This is a bank of photos of target language signs such as shops and road signs. Permission has been given for other teachers to use these to create activities for use in their schools. Teachers can thus create either

presentational or drag and drop activities for the interactive whiteboard, or text and picture matching activities using authoring software. There are also ICT/MFL resource reviews, CD documentation, schemes of work and reports on visits and exchanges.

The management section contains documentation on pedagogy, room management and collaborative projects.

Finally, from the home page there is a link to 'the role play rap' on YouTube.

Languages Online – www.languagesonline.org.uk (researched March 2008)

Languages Online is a site containing interactive resources created and hosted by the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe.

Languages Online contains interactive resources in French, German, Spanish and Italian at different levels from primary to A level. The resources are produced using different programmes such as Hot Potatoes, Task Magic and Spellmaster and include gap-fill exercises, matching exercises, crosswords and quizzes and listening exercises. There are also some exercises for use with specific textbooks but these are equally valuable for use regardless of the textbook being used.

For teaching and learning

The aim of the site is to provide an interactive format through which students can practise the language in a variety of exercise styles. Many units come with explanations, but it is assumed that students should have been taught the material covered prior to attempting a unit. The materials can be used as reinforcement and consolidation of topics. In addition, units are available for students to use in their own time.

Students are able to work through units at their own pace and owing to the self-marking nature of the exercises they can have immediate feedback on their progress. Exercises mostly require students to get everything right first time in order to score 100%. There are point penalties for making mistakes, and also for using "Help" buttons where they are provided.

Most units incorporate differentiation in that exercises become more challenging as the pupil progresses. Units are designed to fill a 40 minute lesson for an average pupil. More able students can redo any pages that they did not score 100% on first time, or to attempt a crossword or quiz, or consolidate a previous unit. The Games section can also be used to practise vocabulary.

The links page of the website provides useful information for teachers and students and includes ideas and instructions for creating exercises using the computer and advice on integrating the use of ICT in the modern languages classroom.

Sutton High Sports College, St Helens, Merseyside – <http://www.suttonhighmfl.110mb.com> (researched March 2008)

Sutton High Sports College Faculty of Modern Languages offers interactive material in four languages:

- French & German, from KS2 to KS5
- Russian and Spanish, to support basic learning in two language clubs

There are also links to materials for Primary French and German.

This site is being updated all the time, and, very helpfully, the home screen lists new files uploaded in the last month, so a check at least once a month will keep a department abreast

of new materials.

The majority of the files are created by Quia, with an increasing amount of Task Magic files, and good links to other sources of ready made activities such as

- Lexiquefle, <http://lexiquefle.free.fr>
- YJC (Resources created by Yvonne Clerehugh of Notre Dame High School, Norwich; www.yjc.org.uk)
- Languagesonline (Australia; www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/german/german.htm)

There are also links to authentic websites, where for example one can catch up on the latest films in France and Germany or download a Stundenplan.

For French & German, activities are listed by Year and then by topic and comprise in the main files that practise by 'testing' – though there are files which 'teach' content and then practise it.

Many of the online materials to which links are provided have good audio within exercises and activities and these should be explored (Languagesonline Australia in particular).

For Russian and Spanish, activities are listed by topic. Not all topics listed have exercises uploaded as yet.

For teaching and learning

There are broadly three ways to use this site

1. As a sound basis on which to build your own department's ICT online activities resource
 - a. This will require marking on the departmental Scheme of Work as and when an exercise or activity supports teaching and learning. This will need regular updating as the site expands its resources.
2. As a Gap Filler
 - a. Explore topics where your own department is lacking in resources and run through all the exercises/activities on offer. Note down or save the first 'page' of each exercise/activity that could fit well into your departmental Scheme of Work. Bring these to the attention of the department and decide jointly which to link to on a permanent basis.
3. As a stimulus to create even more extensive links to exercises/activities to support your own Scheme of Work.
 - a. Many of the links to other websites have many more activities listed under similar topic headings, which have not, as yet, been linked directly by Sutton High. By exploring some of these websites, you may find different types of activities covering the same topics as you are looking for. For example in German Yvonne Clerehugh's site YJC contains many more Flash exercises than are listed. In French, lexiquefle, a website dedicated to French as a Foreign Language, has a wide range of exercises at all levels.

Finally, it is recommended that time is taken to explore all the authentic websites listed; some of them, such as the German search engine for children, die Blinde Kuh, may not be known and can provide endless up-to-date material on many subjects.

About the 'Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4' series

www.languages-ict.org.uk/technology/ks4.htm

This series of advice sheets deals with the effective use of ICT at Key Stage 4 for teachers of modern languages. The series focuses on online resources characterised by their richness and potential for stimulating teaching and learning languages, particularly French, German and Spanish, at Key Stage 4. It is hoped that the suggestions and ideas put forward in the sheets will be of use to teachers of other languages.

The sites were chosen as useful resources for teachers dealing with topic areas which, for various reasons, may be classed as 'hard to teach' at Key Stage 4.

The sites chosen are not presented in any way by CILT, ALL or Becta as unique or comprehensive and no responsibility is taken for any changes which may take place subsequent to this research.

The sheets were researched and written by a small team of consultants working on behalf of CILT, the National Centre for Languages.

All advice and references in the series refer to content as found during the first quarter of 2008.

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