

New for School Session 2012-13!!

Spelling Bee



How did it all start?

The Spelling Bee competition was started by Jane Driver of Comberton Village College in South Cambridgeshire, who wanted to address the problem of encouraging Year 7 pupils (equivalent to S1 in Scotland) to learn vocabulary, and have fun at the same time.

The project proved to be such a success it was adopted nationally, and won a European Language Label Award. It is now sponsored by the European Commission.

Amidst the stories of improved motivation, enhanced language performance, attitudes to learning and self-valuation, there is now hard evidence of the success of the Spelling Bee.

Feedback from teachers and pupils has been overwhelmingly positive:

"Thank you for helping me explore the German Language more and more through this fun journey of competition" wrote one pupil.

One of the teachers remarked:

"...they will never forget their alphabet and have a deeper knowledge of vocab than their average peers"

Many also mentioned the increased vocabulary and improved pronunciation, as well as the fact that pupils were really engaged.

Over 25,000 pupils from more than 350 schools are now 'swarming' to compete in a creative project combining strong pedagogy and lots of fun, while raising the profile of languages.

Further information can be obtained from the website www.flspellingbee.co.uk

(With grateful thanks to Sarah Schechter, Project Manager, Routes into Languages East, for providing the above information)

Interested? Read on to find out about last year's National Final:

<http://routeslanguageblog.wordpress.com/2012/07/18/>



Spelling Bee



Guide for Bzzzz...y Teachers

- S** S1 pupils of French, German, and Spanish are afforded the opportunity of developing skills for learning, life and work by taking part in a class, school, or even national spelling competition.
- P** Participate in this pilot competition, and see your pupils practise and improve spelling, vocabulary, and pronunciation in the target language. Improve memory skills, and motivate them at the same time!
- E** Enjoy seeing pupils learn how to translate high frequency English words into the target language, and spell them correctly in the target language alphabet.
- L** Learners, who can spell the first 50 words correctly, take part in the first stage of the competition. They need to spell as many words as possible correctly within one minute. 50 words will be added at each stage.
- L** Learners will be expected to translate the word with the correct article, but only need to spell the noun correctly using the alphabet in the target language.
- I** Involve senior pupils so that they can help with the organisation of practice sessions at lunchtime. Just teach your class the alphabet at the start of year. It will not eat into your teaching time - promise!
- N** Negotiate with your pupils and persuade them to take part. Give them the chance to go forward to the National Final which will take place at a prestigious venue (to be confirmed at a later date).
- G** Giving priority to accurate pronunciation, and ensuring spelling in the target language is clearly enunciated, allows pupils to progress through the stages successfully.
- B** Be assured that both boys and girls will be motivated to take responsibility for their own learning.
- E** Extend your learners' vocabulary by participating in this new competition, and raise the profile of language learning in your school!
- E** Enrich learners' personal experience and help boost their confidence while having fun at the same time!