

Anglo European School

Case-Study: Anglo European School, Ingatestone, Essex

Background:

The Anglo European School is a non-denominational, co-educational 11-19 comprehensive school. It has many unique features; diversity of language and culture being the most prominent. 65 languages are currently spoken amongst our student body. This puts us in the 80th percentile nationally for percentage minority ethnic. We are very proud of this diversity which exists in the middle of suburban Essex. When the school was established in 1973, it was given a unique mission and a number of key elements make this school distinctive: it achieves academic excellence alongside a very broad and balanced educational experience supported by an internationally-recognised curriculum which includes the International Baccalaureate. We are in an Educational Trust with our immediate feeder primaries which provides us with the opportunity to develop a 4-19 educational continuum, sharing the same internationalist principles and co-operative values.

The school has always been committed to the delivery of languages which is at the heart of its ethos. Eight different languages are taught, with most students studying two languages to GCSE and some studying three. All students do a language in the sixth form. This is supported by an extensive visits and exchange programme which was established in 1974. Over 700 students and 80% of the staff travel abroad every year to stay with host families and support students develop their confidence, communication skills and cultural awareness. We have 22 partner schools in France, China, Germany, Spain, Italy, India, Lesotho, South Africa and China and an on-going relationship with Ebbingham in northern France where all Year 7 students stay for 10 days every year. We provide grants for any student to take part in the Year 7 visit plus at least one exchange to ensure inclusivity. The programme makes a significant contribution to the unique nature of the school and enhances our ethos and the development of the students.

The school was the first state school in the country to become a specialist language college in 1995 and has been ISA accredited since before 2007. The school is actively involved in teacher training in languages with Mandarin student teachers for four years, working with CFBT, IOE and supporting trainees on placements in other schools in Essex.

In total, with the Year 7 “Window in China” days, we have approximately 380 students studying Chinese this year at the Anglo European School. In addition, our Hanban teachers run weekly outreach lessons at Buttsbury Junior School and Wideford Lodge, with lessons soon to start at Southgreen Primary school and St Martin’s secondary school. We also run cultural days in local schools during the Chinese New Year period.

Rationale:

Inclusion is a central tenet of the way in which we plan our students' experiences. Exceptional relationships are high on our list of priorities for the school and we talk unashamedly about care, respect, happiness, achievement and the "Anglo Family". It is this which acts as the cement which holds the school together. The ethos has evolved over 40 years and is firmly embedded. The highly positive atmosphere contributes to a strong sense of community and students from a wide range of backgrounds get on exceptionally well together and can communicate and converse in a number of languages.

The opportunity to develop Chinese as core language provision began over 10 years ago and was enhanced by an emerging partnership with the Jiangsu region, supported by the Essex-Jiangsu schools link initiative. Our International Director visited Dagang Middle School in Jiangsu Province and this became our first partner school. We then engaged with British Council Immersion Courses between 2007-2009 and the interest amongst our student body became obvious. Our students recognize the importance and the benefits of being able to communicate in Chinese Mandarin and the unique position this gave them in an increasingly global economy. We are now seeing our third year of students apply to study Chinese at University – both in this country and abroad in China and Hong Kong.

Partnerships:

The growth of Chinese has meant we now have four partner schools in China: Changhe Senior High School in Hangzhou, Dagang Middle School in Zhenjiang, Nanjing No 1 High School, Wuxi Jiangyin No.1 High School. Dagang and Hangzhou schools have sent teachers to our school to work as Chinese language assistants through the British Council scheme. Nanjing No.1 High School has sent teachers to work at Essex –Jiangsu Centre for Chinese studies.

In 2008 we engaged in a Partnership with Essex-Jiangsu Centre for Chinese studies and became a UCL IOE Confucius Classroom. This has enabled us to expand our teaching capacity, provision in the classroom and cultural and enrichment activities. One such event this year was the Sports and Culture Exchange Project" linking London 2012 and the Nanjing International 2014 Youth Olympics and in 2015, we took part in the Essex – Jiangsu Sports & Culture Summer Camp exchange led by Essex County Council and Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education where a group of students attended the opening ceremony and were involved in various cultural events this summer.

By working collaboratively, teachers are now more confident and knowledgeable; their experiences have strengthened their subject knowledge. The exchange of resources has given students access to authentic materials. As a result of the partnerships established over time there has been an increase in the teaching and learning of Chinese culture and language in Essex schools

Staffing:

We have one full time Subject Leader for Chinese who also manages the UCL IOE Confucius Classroom at Anglo European, two Hanban teachers, who support in exam classes, offer additional tuition to native and near native students, teach IB Standard and AS and run outreach lessons. They also assist in the organisation and delivery of Enrichment Days, Chinese New Year activities, extracurricular clubs. A British Council Language Assistant also provides speaking practice for GCSE and 6th form students, assists with Enrichment Days and mentor teachers through the Billericay Education Consortium. We often find assistants who work with us are inspired to teach and this year is no exception with two applying for teacher training placements this year.

Curriculum:

We introduced Mandarin through a series of enrichment days in Year 7 and then deliver a more formalised curriculum in Year 8 as part of the additional languages offer for those students wishing to study a third language. In 2007 we introduced GCSE and this has proved both popular and successful. We also run Ab initio courses in the 6th form. In 2015, 95% of students achieved A*-C at GCSE and 80% of students achieved A/A* grade. Two students achieved Level 7 at IB Ab Initio, two achieved Level 6 and two achieved Level 5. In their oral examination, four students achieved Grade 7, the highest level awarded.

In total, with the Year 7 “Window in China” days, we have approximately 380 students studying Chinese this year at the Anglo European School. In addition, our Hanban teachers run weekly outreach lessons at Buttsbury Junior School and Widford Lodge and Southgreen Primary school. After Christmas, they will run weekly lessons at St Martins and teach Year 3 & 4 for a term at Ingatestone and Fryerning Junior School. We also run cultural days in local schools during the Chinese New Year period.

The enrichment curriculum is far reaching and effective in developing cultural awareness and engagement with the Chinese language, culture and arts. As well as the Window on China Days & Chinese New Year activities week, we offer a lower school tai chi club, visits to the British Museum and Chinatown; visits to the British Film Institute. In addition, students studying Chinese take part in the Year 10 China Language Exchange; the Essex-Jiangsu Sports Exchange; Sixth Form Chinese Enrichment Days and Globex (Global Experience Week) which provides students with the opportunities to engage with sport, arts, food preparation and tasting, calligraphy and language learning.

Outcomes:

The appointment of Miriam Williams to lead this department has given the department a driving force for development, expansion and collaborative working with other schools and training providers. Students are thriving on the challenge of engaging with the cultural and linguistic activities now available to

them. It's been such a privilege to see students being so academically successful and progressing onto higher education to further their Chinese studies. We know this will enable them to have a competitive advantage in our increasingly global economy and in applying to universities. Furthermore, Chinese studies has already enabled us to strengthen our links with other local schools and feeder primaries. There are not many primary schools who study the Shang Dynasty as part of their curriculum but Ingatestone Junior School do!