Languages XP – Arabic, Latin, Portuguese, Russian

A language and cultural experience for complete beginners by students of The University of Manchester.

Languages XP is designed to give your students the opportunity to meet university language students and to try out a new language. We ran the project successfully last year with Arabic (and Japanese), and have decided to expand it to four languages for this year. Our students, who are mostly in their final year of a language degree, will come into your school to deliver four taster sessions during February/March 2014. The project is aimed at pupils in Year 8 - 10 to aid motivation to continue with language study (to GCSE/A-level). Due to the nature of the project, participating schools will need to be within one hour’s travelling time from the University by public transport.

Through Languages XP your students will...
- meet undergraduate language students and gain an insight into studying at university and where languages can take you.
- learn a new language & culture.
- gain motivation for language study: Routes into Languages North West, who have long organised language enrichment events for Year 8 pupils, measured a marked increase in pupils’ motivation to take up a language option at GCSE, even though the tasters at these events were held in new languages which pupils did not study at school.
- find out about the range of languages that can be picked up from scratch at university: Many of our volunteers have started studying languages as complete beginners, or from the basis of having studied a language other than their main language of study to GCSE level, and have spent last year in a country where the language of study is spoken (with the exception of Latin).

Languages offered
Arabic, Latin, Russian and Portuguese: please choose your two preferred languages, and we will endeavour to allocate students to your school accordingly. There is limited availability for Latin, Russian and Portuguese.

Number, length and timing of taster sessions
February/March 2014: 4 x 45 minutes (plus 1 initial ‘getting to know you’ session)

Sessions can be held either as a lunch-time club or after-school activity once a week.

Age-range and number of pupils per session
Year 8, 9 and/or Y10 pupils
Maximum of 10-12 pupils per group who have no previous knowledge of the language(s).

Materials and funding
There are no extra costs for your school: our students are DBS-checked and have been trained by our language tutors to develop and deliver these taster sessions. Our students will prepare their own teaching materials, hand-outs etc at the university, but may need to ask the school to provide material for their own pupils such as pens, paper etc, but we do not expect it will be anything major.

How to book
Please contact Cathryn Owen by Wednesday, 17th December 2014
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