University engagement sessions on variation in English (KS4/5)

What do you call a soft, round bread: a barm? a roll? a teacake? Do the words foot and strut rhyme for you? How about class and farce? The English language is full of variation like this, and in the University of Manchester’s Division of Linguistics and English Language, we’ve been mapping how English differs from place to place through the Our Dialects website. To accompany this resource, we’re offering interactive, engaging classroom sessions on dialects and accents of English, so your students can explore these linguistic differences first-hand and get a taste of what it’s like to study language at university.

Our sessions last approximately one hour and are led by groups of 2–4 Manchester University students. They are appropriate for both A-level and GCSE pupils, and we can tailor them to your pupils’ level, interests, and knowledge. Past sessions have included:

- Interactive activities on dialect differences
- Exploration of patterns of regional variation in English, using the Our Dialects website
- Introduction to the sociolinguistic research process
- Presentation of classic studies in sociolinguistics
- Q&A with students about university life and studying Linguistics or English Language at university

2018/19 sessions will be running from autumn 2018 and can be arranged at your school or on the University of Manchester’s campus.

For more information or to arrange a session, please contact:

Dr Marije van Hattum at marije.vanhattum@manchester.ac.uk (lecturer in English language) and
Hannah Stanton at hannah.stanton@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk (student volunteer coordinator).