

# Modern Lang.



## Modern Languages Club



As a famous Chinese Proverb states, “To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world.” Learning another language is an essential skill to have in an ever-changing world and its benefits are limitless. It allows us to become more aware of different cultures, develop a greater understanding and appreciation for other people and customs and provides opportunities to foster skills developed in other aspects of the curriculum. In spite of the decline in languages across Northern Ireland, Banbridge Academy values their importance and is keen to encourage a love for them among pupils.

Junior Modern Languages Club is open to all pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10 who are interested in learning more about a variety of languages, countries, cultures and traditions. Last year the pupils had the privilege of getting to know our French Language Assistant, Lou, as we focused on different traditions from her home city in Lyon. According to the pupils, the highlights of the year were the Eiffel Tower construction challenge and the celebration of La Chandeleur when pupils enjoyed authentic crêpes.

Senior Modern Languages Club for Years 11-14 also meets regularly and provides

a great opportunity for pupils to explore many cultural activities, for example, watch films in a foreign language, including Shrek in Spanish, Coco on the theme of Día de los Muertos or the French classic, Belle et Sébastien.

Thank-you to all who attended last year, and we look forward to having new members join us as we explore the wonderful world of languages!

## The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators

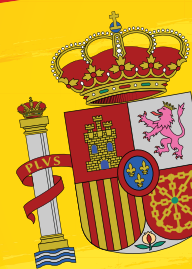
Anthea Bell OBE (1936–2018) is considered one of the leading literary translators of the 20th and 21st centuries, translating the works of Freud, the Brothers Grimm and René Goscinny, to name but a few. Throughout her life she received several literary awards and The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators, organised by the Queen’s College, honours her commitment to encouraging young language-learners.

This year over 16,000 students across the UK participated in the competition, with several pupils from different year groups in Banbridge Academy getting involved in various languages. Banbridge Academy student, Lucy Grossmann, was awarded Area Winner for the whole of Northern Ireland for her translation into English of a text from Spanish author, Cristina Sánchez-Andrade and we congratulate her on this fantastic achievement.



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## Spanish Exchange



*Eoighan Comiskey, Year 13*



One cold Saturday morning in February, 15 pupils from Years 11-14 met at the Academy at crazy o'clock! We were so excited to finally depart on our exchange to Zaragoza in the north of Spain. We had been planning this excursion for months and we couldn't wait to finally meet our Spanish 'amigos' who we would be staying with for the next week.

It was a mixture of fear and excitement and the journey was spent chatting about our host families and what we had learnt while texting our partners in the weeks beforehand. We didn't arrive in Zaragoza until 6 o'clock that evening. It was a long journey, but it was all worth it in the end.

On arrival we were met by our Spanish families and headed off to our new 'casa'. It was nerve-wracking, especially as they were speaking Spanish, and quickly!! But it was lovely getting to know our families and the parts of the city that they lived in. It was however a relief to meet up a couple of hours later with the entire group in a local pizzeria, but I was shocked to find fried eggs on the top of many of the pizzas!

Food was such a big part of the experience. It was hard to pass up both the Spanish coffee and the fresh fruit that seemed to be everywhere. My real favourite were the oranges that my partner Gaby's uncle had grown himself; I have never tasted a better

orange.

Coffee in Spain was slightly different. I spent the week sipping on "café solo" which in essence was just a straight shot of espresso but it was a magnificent one with a real earthy taste behind it, which really gave me a boost across this action-packed week.

Yet another culture shock was the breakfasts, which were often very light (not what I was used to!) However, this was made up for by the massive lunches and dinners. Spanish families eat their main meal at lunchtime and a smaller tea around 10pm!

I think I hit the jackpot with my family taking me to see so many amazing places, different towns in the province of Aragon, such as Teruel and my favourite- Albarracín, a small village in the mountains which was absolutely stunning and really showed me the true authentic Spanish 'pueblo' culture.

School in Spain is also slightly different. To me it seemed very laid back in comparison to the Academy, with no uniforms, and the



school day felt shorter, even though they started at 8.30am. All the teachers were referred to using their first names, but the students were all very welcoming and respectful and genuinely interested in our small group.

When we returned home, we had about a month before becoming hosts to our Spanish partners.

On the first night I remember having a Chinese meal at Kate's house, while Ellie's partner Juan kindly performed some of his



world class beatboxing for the entire dinner party for the entire night, which was really... interesting. He did have a fan club in the Atrium at breaktime and after school!

One of the days was spent with host families and so we gave Gaby a taste of GAA culture by taking him to see a Down game in Páirc Esler. Although we are all Armagh men in our house, we were delighted to be able to show off the Mourne men. Gaby was more interested in the hurling

though, wanting to spend every minute he could out in the garden pucking around. Because of this we thought it would be nice to send him home with a ball and stick, creating Zaragoza's very own Cú Chulainn.

The Spaniards had a fantastic time in Banbridge, despite a freezing cold trip to the Giant's causeway!

The trip nearly ended in disaster when our house slept through an alarm only to be

woken by a call from Miss Poots reminding us that the bus was supposed to be enroute to Dublin. Although I don't think Gaby would have minded an extended holiday, I'm sure the Spanish teachers were delighted to see him back on the bus ready to go home and avoid the mountain of paperwork, and maybe tears, had he not made it in time!

All in all it was an incredible experience, and I am so thankful to Miss Poots and Mrs Adair for making it unforgettable!



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## European Day of Languages

Once again this year we enjoyed the excuse to dress up, eat croissants and do many fun activities to celebrate the European Day of Languages on September 26th.

