

languages ICT

Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4

Teaching about transport and travel in French

Useful site: www.eurostar.com/FR/fr/leisure/travel_information.jsp (researched March2008)

The Eurostar website is intended for French travellers using the service to travel to a range of destinations

The site contains sections on making reservations, timetables and prices, hotels and car hire at the destination. There are also details of the stations including videos and virtual tours of the terminals and their facilities. In addition, there is a section about the Eurostar trains which describes the different classes of travel, what can be found on board and dining possibilities.

Other links include special offers for package deals to London hotels and information about what there is to do and see in London.

For teaching and learning

The reservation section of the site could be used by the teacher for full class role play with the teacher playing the part of the reservation clerk. The teacher should check through the reservation process in advance to ensure that he/she is familiar with the boxes which need to be completed. When the class has practised two or three times with the teacher taking the lead, students could work in pairs to carry out a similar exercise. Students may need to be provided with the questions as prompts to assist with this. This activity should be suitable for the full ability range.

For students aiming at C grades and above, the site could be further exploited for role play use using the 'special offer' area. In this case students can request and provide information on hotels and leisure activities in London as well as particular types of special tickets such as tickets for young people under the age of 26.

The site could also be used for reading practice. If it is used in this way, the teacher should either set very open questions or if specific details are required, will need to check that the answers to the questions posed are the same and have not changed.

Why this site was chosen

It can be difficult to make the topic of transport meaningful and interesting for students. As this site involves British destinations as well as those in continental Europe, this offers familiar ground for the student who may find it hard to imagine travelling by train in France or a French speaking country.

About the 'Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4' series

www.languages-ict.org.uk/technology/ks4.htm

This series of advice sheets deals with the effective use of ICT at Key Stage 4 for teachers of modern languages. The series focuses on online resources characterised by their richness and potential for stimulating teaching and learning languages, particularly French, German and Spanish, at Key Stage 4. It is hoped that the suggestions and ideas put forward in the sheets will be of use to teachers of other languages.

The sites were chosen as useful resources for teachers dealing with topic areas which, for various reasons, may be classed as 'hard to teach' at Key Stage 4.

The sites chosen are not presented in any way by CILT, ALL or Becta as unique or comprehensive and no responsibility is taken for any changes which may take place subsequent to this research.

The sheets were researched and written by a small team of consultants working on behalf of CILT, the National Centre for Languages.

All advice and references in the series refer to content as found during the first quarter of 2008.

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