

languages ICT

Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4

Key resources

The Key resources outlined in this document complement the Key interactive resources and the language-specific advice sheets which together make up the 'Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4' series.

The key resources outlined in this document comprise sites considered to be valuable for all teachers of languages at Key Stage 4. In many cases they offer resources in more than one language, and, in fact, may be useful at other Key Stages.

The sites identified as key resources were all researched in the early part of 2008 and references made to content or layout reflect the sites at that time. It is hoped that the suggestions, comments and advice will remain relevant should revisions or adjustments be made to the sites researched.

In identifying these sites as key resources, no claim is made that the list is exhaustive. The sites were selected because of their relevance, the range of their resources and the many opportunities they present for enhancing the teaching and learning of languages at Key Stage 4.

BBC – www.bbc.co.uk (researched April 2008)

The BBC web site is a treasure trove for teachers of languages at all levels. The resources available are many and are suitable for independent or whole-class work from the interactive whiteboard.

A good start point to access materials for learning is BBC Learning from where key resources for language learners, whether at school or adults, can be accessed.

For students

Bitesize materials can be accessed from BBC Schools (www.bbc.co.uk/schools) They are manageable chunks of advice, support and test materials for students preparing for GCSE French, German and Spanish. Materials cover all four language skills and grammar. Within each language skill area students can choose to work on materials at Foundation or Higher levels. They are offered revision notes and interactive online tests.

Bitesize materials are especially helpful for students working independently. In addition to revision notes and interactive tests, students can download games, and quizzes to their computers or mobile phones. They can also download mp3 files covering many topic areas for developing listening and speaking skills at different levels.

While Bitesize materials are aimed at promoting self-study skills in students, they can also be used in whole class teaching. The interactive whiteboard can be used to open interactive exercises or revision guides for work with the whole class. The mp3 audio files can also be downloaded and placed on the network to be accessed from the interactive whiteboard. Alternatively, links to Bitesize materials can be placed on electronic worksheets for use with the whole class or placed on the network or VLE for students to access when in the computer suite or from home.

For teachers

For teachers, there are Hot Links to especially useful web sites, a mock exam and a revision checklist which can be used with students. Teachers can also follow links to BBC Schools Teachers pages where they will find downloadable lesson plans, worksheets and other resources.

Keeping up to date: teachers and students can receive information about updates to Bitesize materials. To do this, you must subscribe to the RSS Feed, a simple process explained at the site.

BBC Languages – www.bbc.co.uk/learning/subjects/languages.shtml

BBC Languages offers many valuable resources at beginners and intermediate level which GCSE students can use profitably.

Topics covered are familiar to learners at GCSE level and can provide useful extra resources. Interactivity is a key feature of games, and self-assessment tests. Online video or audio materials are available and can be used for whole class teaching via the interactive whiteboard or as part of a sequence of learning activities designed for students working alone.

BBC News

News bulletins and much more are available in many languages. With careful use, they could be of value in the KS4 classroom.

MFL Resources – www.mflresources.org.uk/index.html (researched March 2008)

MFL Resources is a site by teachers for teachers. It is home to an ever-growing set of resources which have been generously donated by practising teachers who are members of a Yahoo group called 'mflresources' and who want to share the workload. All teachers may join the forum and share resources they have created.

Resources in a range of languages

There are worksheets, PowerPoint presentations, games, multi-language resources, flashcards and grammar and display resources. There are also some newly added resources on the site which are very valuable for GCSE. These include audio files with role play raps, hub phrases for GCSE in mp3 format and task magic exercises.

Ideas and Favourites

The ideas section of the site contains ideas on creating audio files using music and words and using Comic Life for Windows. There is also a favourites section where teachers can share favourite websites, resources and details of language teaching events with others.

Linked site

Sites linked to MFL resources are MFL resources 2 and 3. These are now hosted by the Bourne Community College, www.eurobourne.org.uk/mfl_resources/index.html. All of the files on the site were contributed by members of the yahoogroups mflresources2 and mflresources3.

There is a wealth of resources on this site organised in topic area and also specific resources for different qualifications and grammar resources. If there are special sporting events or festivals such as Christmas or Valentine's day, teachers often share resources they have created specifically for the event. Again, it is possible for teachers to join this resource-sharing forum and post resources they have created.

Emails from the forum

It is possible for teachers to agree to receive email from forum members. This is a useful facility which can enable discussion to take place on topics of current interest to language teachers and for requests for very specific resources.

MFL Sunderland – www.sunderlandschools.org/mfl-sunderland (researched March 2008)

MFL Sunderland is the site of Sunderland Local Authority Modern Foreign Languages team, comprising all 18 secondary schools and three ASTs.

This site is massive and will well repay devoting some time to exploring its resources and its links. It has resources for

- French KS1–5
- Spanish KS1–5
- German KS3–5

There are also puzzles and games, display material, Christmas material, starters and plenaries and thinking skills activities. Under a heading of General Resources there can be found interactive whiteboard activities for Promethean Boards. French also has a series of sound files.

On the home page is a link to a What's New section, which usefully lists in reverse order all new uploads and links.

Exercises and activities are downloadable and comprise a wide range of materials including worksheets, presentations, pictures and grammar activities. Use the search engine if you cannot quickly locate a resource for a particular level, language or topic.

In French and Spanish, the worksheets are grouped under topics, although not in the German section. The majority of the files, except the PowerPoint ones, are Word documents, and are often illustrated. There are a handful of MS Publisher files and some pdf ones too, for which Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free download, is needed.

The MFL Network section contains departmental training material under the following headings:

- Bridging from KS3 to KS4.
- Core training.
- Optional training.
- NQTs.
- Gifted and talented.
- Assessment for learning.
- Booster materials.

There are other sections including a local forum and advice for NQTs.

At the moment, interactive material is located via the MFL links section. Web links are given the briefest of summaries or occasionally none at all, which means that they have to be visited individually in turn in order to evaluate their worth.

However, a new section is under construction- a Student Zone called Estrellas. Currently (Spring 2008) it has some French and a little Spanish material but nothing for German. The activities are listed by topic and graded 1 - 4 stars. The exercises make more use of interactive formats and are intended for use by students in class, in the ICT room or even directly from home.

The material is extensive but not necessarily immediately easy to locate. It needs a great

deal of exploration and note-taking to pinpoint exactly what useful and supportive exercises/ activities there are and where they are located.

At the moment there is more in the way of teaching materials with allied worksheets than interactive material for students to use in school. But Estrellas is designed to fill this need and hopefully will be built up over time. So, this is a site worth re-visiting.

Currently the teacher PowerPoint files and the worksheets provide a mass of co-ordinated material for a large number of topics which need to be investigated and noted down on your departmental Scheme of Work, as the grammar points might not necessarily coincide with the topic vocabulary you expect or currently use.

There are also in the KS4 sections quite a few documents aimed at advising and helping students preparing for GCSE exams.

The CILT Vocational Languages Resource Bank – www.vlrb.org.uk

The CILT Vocational Languages Resource Bank (VLRB) offers free resources and ideas for teachers to use in their classrooms when delivering courses with a vocational slant. However despite being aimed at this type of course, it is extremely useful for use with GCSE students as it covers many GCSE topics in an interesting and adult way and provides resources which can be copied and amended, used via whiteboards and computers or simply as hard copy print-outs.

The resources for the Vocational Languages Resource Bank have been designed by teachers working in schools as well as colleges of Further and Adult Education. Here are some more details of the resources:

- Resources have been developed at entry level up to level 3, although the majority of the resources will be at entry level to level 2. For GCSE students, resources aimed at levels 1–2 will be appropriate.
- The website does not aim to provide a full set of resources for a particular course, but it does offer a good starting point and presents a wide range of ideas for teachers to develop their own materials.
- Languages currently featured on the site are French, German, Spanish, Italian, Urdu, Japanese and Arabic. This range of languages will be extended over time.
- Activities are provided in all four skill areas and there are comprehensive notes for teachers on how to exploit the materials and many have resources to assist in delivery such as PowerPoint presentations.
- The areas which will be especially useful to GCSE students are advertising, business, catering, creative and media, customer services, ICT, leisure, travel and tourism, retail and sport.

You will also find:

- Tips for making your own resources.
- Examples of schemes of work.
- Links to other web-based resources.

You can copy and adapt resources to suit individual circumstances

Resources for use alongside the specialist diplomas

If students are taking the specialist diplomas in KS4 (Construction, ICT and Creative and Media are all being delivered from September 2008), there are schemes of work and accompanying resources to assist teachers.

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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