

TRANSLATION BEE COMPETITION IN FRENCH

What is the translation Bee about?

The Routes into Languages East Foreign Language Translation Bee is a competition for students in Years 8 & 9 to build on the work they did in Year 7 with the Routes into Languages National Spelling Bee, practising and improving their vocabulary, spelling and memory skills in a foreign language (French, German or Spanish). It meets the demand from pupils and their teachers for a project providing a sense of progression by building on the requirements of the new KS3 curriculum, with its emphasis on translation and grammatical manipulation. It helps students to practise and improve a range of skills vital to the preparation for starting a GCSE course: vocabulary, pronunciation, memory, verb conjugation, tenses and sentence formation. The competition consists of translating as many sentences as possible from English into



French (our chosen language) in one minute.

This academic year, all the students in Year 8 took part; Stage 1 of the competition was first a form competition, the first four students from each form moved on to Stage 2. Later on in the year, Stage 2 of the competition took place and four students were school winners. These four students, Amelia Simpson, Elisha Kelly, Natasha Oliver and Mariam Alemi went on to represent the school in the national competition held in Cambridge on the 15th June.

The four girls did the school proud and Amelia went on to the semi-final. They all learned a lot about what they can achieve under pressure. Quite a challenge really! Well done to all the Year 8 girls as well as they all took part!

F.Barats, Head of French

Student comments

On Wednesday 15th June 2016, four Year 8s went to compete in the Translation Bee competition at the Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge.

Throughout a series of rounds, the competitors had to translate as many simple sentences as they could in one minute. There were three different languages, French,



Spanish and German; we were competing in French. At the university, the competition was fierce. There were lots of people from many different schools who were all very fast. At first we were a little bit overwhelmed, by both how quickly people were translating and the vast size of the university, but soon got used to it. It was very nerve-wracking standing up and speaking in front of lots of people, let alone in another language! Unfortunately we did not reach the finals, but overall it was a very fun and enjoyable experience and we all really enjoyed it! A big thank you to Madame Barats who drove us there and back and supported us throughout the competition!

Amelia Simpson 8P

The translation bee was a very beneficial experience; we learnt three tenses and had to improve our speed at translating and pronunciation which helped in our French lessons. We practised a lot at lunch and improved. On the journey there we attempted to practise and keep ourselves calm.

When we got there our calmness evaporated, and we realised how big the competition was.

Amelia Simpson got through the semi-finals unfortunately the other 3 students didn't. After Madame Barats reassured us that a lot of the other competition were Year 9s and our effort was not for nothing as we gained experience in a test format, dealing with pressure.

We really enjoyed the competition, thanks to Madame Barats and Madame Clay, for helping us during the development stages. We have also been inspired to look at careers in languages. We recommend this competition to other students who feel they need to improve their French or want a challenge.

By Elisha Kelly and Natasha Oliver. 8S

I enjoyed participating in the French Translation Bee although being unsure about it at the start. I

learned a wide variety of new French vocabulary which helped expand my knowledge and learn high level tenses. These helped me in French lessons as I would have already known the new tenses due to Translation Bee practice. Consequently, I understand French a lot better than before. Unfortunately, none of us got through to the finals, however we all put in so much effort and were clearly very close to getting through. The final competitors were very close and Amelia Simpson almost got through. I think she did amazingly well (as did the other girls). Overall, the experience was very interesting and has contributed to my French progress very much as I only started French in year 8, unlike other students.

Mariam Alemi. 8J

