



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

27TH JANUARY NORTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

I attended -

Plenary 1

Dr. Liam Printer, Building a motivated language classroom: From theory to practice.

This was an excellent session, well presented and engaging. It was practical and fairly easy to implement in the Modern Language classroom. The approach challenges directly much of the current approach. It would be good to explore this further.

Plenary 2

Adam Lamb, Backwards planning: Curriculum priorities 2024 onwards – my attempt to reduce the knee-jerk reaction to specification change.

This was a useful approach to handling the changes required for the new GCSE. It would have been good to hear more about the rationale for the suggestions made.

Workshop 1 4.

Oliver Hopwood, Eight British myths about vocabulary in learning modern languages.

As was expected, this was a very thorough analysis of not only the approach to vocabulary teaching but of the pitfalls in current teaching for exams. There was a lot to consider. It would be good to take this further and encourage schools to review approaches to teaching vocabulary.

Workshop 2 2.

Information about the Advanced British Standard & Current Consultation. Key questions relating to the qualification which is proposed to replace A-levels.

I attended this session as I felt I knew nothing about the proposals. It was surprising to learn how much has already been done and that there is a consultation out. This is an area where perhaps ISMLA and NALA and others would benefit from working together.

Plenary 3

Tina Rainer, AI: The Language Teacher's New BFF (Best Fluent Friend)

Simply brilliant to be guided through all the practical applications that are currently available with AI. There is great potential for MFL and Tina helped everyone see what the impact could be and how it is accessible to everyone.

Plenary 4

Bernadette Holmes MBE and Dr Judith Rifesser, UCL.

The National Consortium for Languages Education.

It was a pity this session was presented remotely as there was little chance to discuss and ask questions. It was simply a presentation of the given brief of NCLE. For teachers in the independent sector there seemed little relevance apart from possibly accessing CPD videos. Independent schools are often at the centre of good practice in MFL. It would have been good to have seen NCLE acknowledge this and see what is transferable to the state sector.

Thank you so much for inviting me.

David Moss

On behalf of NALA