



CASE STUDY

Northgate High School Sixth Form Language Conference.

Up until 2006 Northgate High School in Ipswich had run a language course for its Year 12 students. It was held in June each year, following study leave, in conjunction with a local provider.

In 2007 the school decided to run the conference itself, buying in the tutors and running the OCN accredited course itself. This was repeated in 2008.

Each year, over 250 students took part opting to study Greek, Russian, Japanese, Mandarin or Arabic, all with native speakers as tutors.

The students have a variety of language-based tasks to complete over 3 days, as well as having time allotted to pick up valuable cultural information.

As a Specialist Language College, Northgate High School feels that it is important to be able to offer Sixth Form students, many of whom would not have had the opportunity to study languages offered by this course, the chance to learn a new alphabet, useful phrases or elements of a different culture.

The students really appreciate what the course brings in terms of greater understanding of other nations and people. They also receive a NOCN accredited certificate at the end of the conference. When evaluated over 98% of the students thought that the course was worthwhile.

As well as the enjoyment and motivation that the course provides, the school has had a large number of students who have requested to continue with the language after the conference. The school has now followed this course up with lessons offered to students as after school club activities.



The **Diversity** of Learning