



Platform

The Newsletter of Sanako UK for MFL Teacher & Lecturer

HIGHER EDUCATION | FURTHER EDUCATION | SECONDARY EDUCATION



Monmouth Comprehensive School;

Enthusiasing Young Language Learners

Jill Snook,
Faculty Leader for International Languages,
Monmouth Comprehensive School

Monmouth Comprehensive School in South Wales recently installed and have been delighted with Sanako Study 700 system, promoting confidence and independence amongst students in their speaking.

Students learn French, German and Spanish GCSE and A Level. The Languages Faculty is also a **Learning Network School for the EAS** (Education Achievement Service), which supports and promotes language learning within other schools in the area through the Welsh Government Global Futures Strategy.

At Monmouth, we are delighted to celebrate a great passion amongst our students for International Languages and we are proud to offer students the opportunity to study a wide range. With the introduction of a new GCSE in 2018 in Wales, we wanted to develop student confidence and their ability to be more independent in speaking and understanding.

With the recent purchase of the **Sanako Study 700** System for our faculty laptops in 2019, we have the flexibility for using it with different classes and different languages. Having training and support was invaluable for our MFL team and then being able to trial the activities was exciting. Monmouth staff are constantly learning and the guidance from David and Paul at Sanako has been incredible. They always can provide answers to our numerous questions and have great patience.

We have so far focused on live speaking activities and students have been able to use paired discussions for Role Play practice. Being able to randomly pair has encouraged students to work with a variety of people, improving confidence. Having the facility to record and collate these discussions gives the teacher greater opportunity to feedback, in addition to monitoring and assessing progress. All of our students enjoy the independent responses to teacher questions, using the Voice Insert function. We use this to practice conversation at GCSE over a wide range of themes. Students have mentioned they feel more confident using the headphones and recording as they feel less self-conscious.

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The confidence building is evident and after giving teacher feedback using the automatic voice insert, students are keen to record again wanting to demonstrate improvements. Using the vocabulary tests has also been a great focus for students in learning core vocabulary and having immediate feedback. This has definitely created a competitive element either amongst students or a desire to beat their previous score. We look forward to trialling new activities and developing this across other key stages as Sanako has been such a great motivational tool for students, as well as impacting positively on progress.

Embedding Languages;

Across Primary & Secondary Education

By Mr Steven Fawkes



Language teachers around the world are constantly searching out strategies to interest the diverse groups of learners they encounter.

One approach addresses the issue of 'interesting content' - which asks "Why are we teaching teenagers how to describe their pets?" Teachers are instead developing ways for learners to explore content traditionally reserved for other curriculum areas including scientific, artistic, practical and historical, for example. The approach, given the umbrella term Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), now has a distinct status in some countries.

Language teachers are of course pragmatic and not all would subscribe to the requirements and definitions of the CLIL discipline in a full scheme of work; they might however select aspects and use the same approaches in short-term projects or lessons. This is where the new **Erasmus+ European project ELAPSE** aims to provide the support, advice and resources to get them going.

ELAPSE is creating a website with practical tools for busy teachers, focussing on the years of transition from primary to secondary education - roughly from ages 8 to 14. The **ELAPSE** team (from Austria, France, Spain and the UK) has developed 20 lesson plans and resources - in all four languages - which form the heart of the project. Launched in March 2020 at Language World in Manchester, UK, the online course also explores rationale, scaffolding of new language, CLIL approaches and principles using text, graphics and video clips of teachers and learners.

Q: How do language teachers motivate their learners?

A: In every way possible!

"Why are we teaching teenagers how to describe their pets?"

When the website is completed over Summer 2020, it will host practical cross-curricular tools, a learning pathway to show teachers how to create their own lessons and a good practice guide. Please visit <https://lfee.net/news/> now to read more in the ELAPSE team's glimpses into the future!



Would you like to contribute to the next Platform newsletter?

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We'd love to hear about your experiences with Sanako Language Labs.

Whether you have an interesting teaching idea, a successful project, student comments and opinions, questions for other users or your own Language Lab hints and tips to share, let us know and we'll include them in the next issue to help ensure everyone gets the very best from their Sanako Language Lab systems.

Say hello: ukenquiries@sanako.com

Chipping Campden School;

Advanced MFL Teaching in the Cotswolds

Situated in the beautiful Cotswolds area of England, this vibrant school is totally different from the sleepy Cotswold village in which it is set. This is an outstanding school (OfSTED 2017) with a long and distinguished history dating back to 1440, and a reputation to match.

The school offers a very wide range of extra-curricular activities including sport, music and drama and standards here are also very high.

There are always opportunities for students to contribute to the wider life of the school through student leadership, peer mentoring and charitable fundraising, for example. Staff here are well-qualified and talented professionals. It is also a forward-looking school, striving always to provide the best opportunities for students to achieve their potential in a time of rapid change.

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The Modern Foreign Languages Department (MFL) is at the forefront of these forward thinking departments. The MFL team at Chipping Campden School are always looking for new ways to enhance the learning experience of their students. With an outstanding track record, a very healthy uptake of MFL GCSE and A Level in French, German and Spanish along with a high percentage of these students going on to study languages at university.

The school has always used the best technology to support this and for many years had used a **Sanako Language Laboratory**. Having worked with this excellent system for over a decade the MFL team decided it was time to update their existing language laboratory to one of the latest software only systems, once again Sanako was the natural choice.



Sanako Study 700 Language Centre

Given the popularity of the existing language laboratory, the MFL team came up with a specification to ensure they retained a fully functional interactive language centre, with live audio interaction and two track recording facility. It's early days as the on-site staff user training only took place in January 2020, but the MFL team are already looking forward to using some of the advanced activities such as;

- Simultaneous whole class oral assessment with collected and named student MP3 files.
- Live audio random pairing with file collect & monitoring for role play activities.
- Playlist & Image description launch & collect exercises.
- Automatic voice insert for audio gap filling exercise with both audio & video files.
- Vocabulary testing facility with colour coded marking.
- Oral examination mode with PC management facilities.
- Discrete audio & video monitor of live student activity.
- Internet blocking facility with web management facility.
- Multiple choice testing facility.
- Advanced two track recording system (tutor/Student) model student activity broadcast, audio video & screen.

Further follow-up training sessions are planned in the near future to ensure that the new **Sanako Study 700** system is used to the maximum, benefiting both students and teachers alike. One thing is for certain, this sustained combination of advanced technology and the forward thinking MFL teachers, with their high level of enthusiasm and ability, Modern Foreign Language Teaching is in very safe hands in the Cotswolds.

Howell's School, Cardiff;

Girls' Day School Trust Invests in MFL at Howell's School

Howell's School, Llandaff has been at the forefront of girls' education since 1860. At Howell's, we are passionate about the futures of our girls.

While their academic achievements are important, these must go hand-in-hand with co-curricular activities that interest and challenge them, a community that supports them, and the opportunities to pursue their passions and learn from their failures. Howell's inspires and motivates students, fostering an appetite for lifelong learning and helping them acquire the skills for tackling a competitive and rapidly changing world.

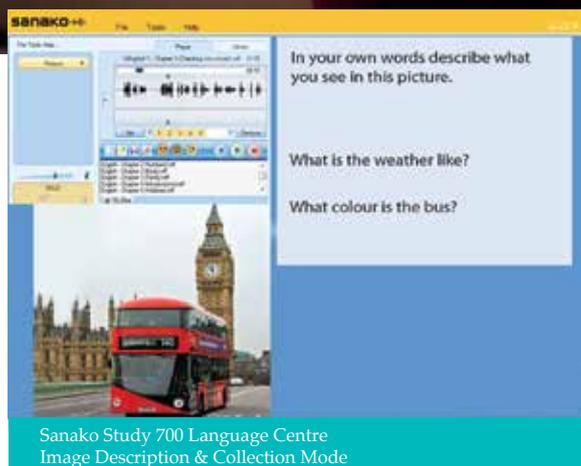
Following a visit to the Royal High School, which is also a member of the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST), the Head of Modern Foreign Languages at Howell's, Mr Lee Morgan, observed a modern languages lesson in action.

Mr Morgan immediately noticed the tremendous advantages the Royal High School had when using the installed **Sanako Study 700** language centre to enhance lessons, increase the amount of student speaking and listening time, carry out oral assessments and conduct vocabulary testing exercises.

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Sanako Study 700 Language Centre at Howell's School Cardiff



Sanako Study 700 Language Centre
Image Description & Collection Mode

Mr Morgan was so impressed with this he asked Howell's School Leadership Team to invest the same technology for Howell's School to benefit their students also. The forward thinking LT could also see the advantages, and in the autumn of 2019, the **Sanako Study 700** language centre was installed on an existing computer suite within the school. On-site staff user training only took place in early January 2020 but the enthusiastic MFL team are already making good use of the system, discovering new ways in which it can benefit both staff and students alike.

The staff are also looking forward to creating their own simple but engaging exercises for any target language. It is also hoped that as they become more familiar with using the system in the weeks to come that the Welsh Language Department will also engage creating exercises by speaking for the Welsh language accordingly

“The enthusiastic MFL team are already making good use of the system, discovering new ways in which it can benefit both staff and students alike.”

Indian Army Education Corps;

Army Sets up Advanced Language Lab to Teach Jawans Mandarin

To overcome the language barrier faced by junior soldiers, known as Jawans, on the border with China, the Army has set up a new centre to teach Mandarin to 125 students annually. It's intended that Jawans will use their knowledge in new situations and see connections between and within subjects.

This is the first part of a much larger system offering every recruit in the Indian Army the opportunity to learn a foreign language of their choice, with over 50,000 licences making it the largest language centre in the world.

After acquiring tanks, combat aircraft and howitzers to counter the numerous hardships that come with manning India's border with China, Indian soldiers are now working to overcome their biggest barrier; Foreign Languages.

Indian and Chinese soldiers cross each other's path very frequently while patrolling the 3,400km long Line of Actual Control (LAC), and the Indian side is often in a disadvantageous position when it comes to monitoring and keeping a tab on communication of Chinese troops. "The Army's Eastern Command has set up its advanced Chinese language training laboratory at Panagarh to impart Chinese language training to its soldiers deployed along the LAC," senior Army officials said.

New Facility can Train Thousands of Students Every Year

Officials said it was felt that a solution was needed quickly as the language barrier can cause misunderstandings between troops at the local level.

The new establishment will be able to teach Mandarin to a large number of soldiers. One part of the new facility can train 125 students in one classroom and has been designed to teach standard Chinese or Putonghua to troops deployed in Eastern Command sector, which looks after the LAC from Sikkim to Arunachal Pradesh. Army officials said faculty strength at the School of Foreign Languages was currently inadequate. "Too often, soldiers who had learnt the language earlier had forgotten by the time they were posted along the LAC. Regular practice is required to learn Chinese, which is considered to be the toughest language to pick up which is why they had online support."

"State-of-the-art SANAKO Study 1200 software were installed, with world class Chinese learning via SANAKO PRONOUNCE LIVE."

The Army has also involved renowned institutions such as Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan to explain the nuances of Chinese language including various dialects. With distance is an issue Sanako software is helping to negate the problem.

"In addition, state-of-the-art **Sanako Study 1200** software were installed, with world class Chinese learning via SANAKO PRONOUNCE LIVE." an army official commented. "A well-stocked library and Chinese TV Channels are being provided to complement the formal learning with the practical. Selected soldiers will also act as interpreters during visits of high-level delegations using mobile Sanako interpreting software."

"As the Chinese Language Training Laboratory evolves, in a few years it will become a Centre of Excellence for Chinese language learning and cater to the needs of the entire Eastern Theatre," remarked an Army official. "The Chinese language establishment, which is the location for the headquarters of the 17 Mountain Strike Corps, will also help us long-term to counter the rising military threat from China."



Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College;

MFL Success in the Heart of a Vibrant Northern City

"It is one of the best departments in college, not just because the equipment is so modern and easy to use, but also because the teachers provide unlimited support. The trips to Spain are amazing too."

Morgan, Upper Sixth, A Level Spanish Student

Situated in the heart of the bustling City of Leeds, Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College is extremely proud of all their students' achievements, especially the individual progress that they each make in their time at the college.

The College's success is built upon teamwork between staff and students. The staff are passionate about working with young people and always go the extra mile to provide guidance and support to help them succeed.

When students enrol at Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College they can choose from a wide variety of different subjects, ensuring they find the course that's right for them. The College is proud to be able to offer their students the very best range of choices.

Modern Foreign Languages Department

Boasting some of the best A Level exam results in the area, the Modern Foreign Languages Department encapsulate the blend of passionate and skilled staff and the latest technology to enhance their lessons. Making the most of their installed **Sanako Study 1200 system** for the basic activities such as interactive speaking and listening and the more advanced voice insert, role play, oral assessment and subtitling facilities is an everyday occurrence.

Chary González-Latham, a senior lecturer at Notre Dame Sixth Form College states, "Results for A-level Foreign Modern Languages are among the best in the country with 100% pass rate in both A Level French and Spanish, 100% A*-B in French in paper 3, 91% A*- B overall in French, and 72% A*-B in Spanish. Our department is extremely robust with over 80 students studying linear courses every year."



Chipping Campden School Academy;

Making Pronunciation Competitive and Fun for Students

Daphne Wateridge,
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

In Conjunction with our Sanako Study 700 language laboratory we also use latest Pronounce Live system from Sanako. This is a piece of software which can be used to help students practice and improve their pronunciation in Modern Foreign Language lessons.

The software gives students a very good idea of how foreign words and sentences should be pronounced, by playing them an audio clip of whatever text they have entered, then giving them a rating in the form of a percentage on their own pronunciation when they say the sentence aloud into a headset.

This creates a really engaging and fun atmosphere for students who, we find, begin to compete, not only against each other, but also themselves in an effort to achieve the highest score possible.

The beauty of this is that it inspires students to rinse and repeat certain paragraphs or sentences, thereby helping to commit them to memory, it also gives them a good idea of how their pronunciation stacks up, highlighting the most obvious errors in their pronunciation.

“Overall Pronounce Live is a programme which is wonderfully thorough in its simplicity, engages students and is easy for teachers to set up and use.”

They can, with an account, save their results which can be viewed by the teacher via the teacher account.

Students can use this software for any given piece of work which they have saved on the computer and teachers can even make group tasks which will be shared by all students attached to the group account (a very simple process).

Tips and Tricks;

Getting the best from your Sanako Language Lab

For further information see the Sanako “how to” videos on www.sanako.co.uk

Random Pairing of Students for Role Play Exercises and Audio Collection

-  Both the **Sanako Study 1200 & Sanako Study 700** systems have the **random pairing facility**. This allows the tutor or the software to create live role play scenarios for multiple students or for the entire class simultaneously.
-  At any point the tutor can discretely monitor the student pairs and intervene as required for support or instruction.
-  When the exercise is complete, by clicking the Auto Collect button, you will have an MP3 file for every pair of students, with naming process for identification, ready for you to assess.

Vocabulary Testing and Auto Marking of Student's Work

-  Both the **Sanako Study 1200 & Sanako Study 700** systems have the **Vocabulary Testing facility**. This allows the tutor to use pre prepared vocabulary tests, create new ones or import from Microsoft Excel. Either words or short phrases can be used.
-  The student simply completes the exercise as required and sends it back to the teacher. The advanced software will analyse and mark the students performance allowing work to be returned to the student or saved to show progression.

News in Brief;

Getting the best from your SANAKO Language Lab

Sanako Study Range Language Centres Version 9.3 **Update** Released

Following feedback from our users, both teachers and technicians, Sanako is pleased to release the very latest version 9.3 software for your system.

Now available for download, in this version there are various Windows 10 patches and additional functions. **Contact your local Sanako office for more information.**

Sanako **Connect** Module for Study Range Language Centres

Sanako proudly announces the launch of its new module, **Sanako Connect**.

Compatible with both Sanako Study 1200 & Sanako Study 700 language centres, Sanako Connect enables teachers to set up real-time language classes online within the classroom environment and beyond.



Sanako **Reacted** Module The A.I Assisted Assessment Tool

Sanako is pleased to announce the launch of the new **Sanako Reacted** module.

Compatible with both Sanako Study 1200 & Sanako Study 700 language centres, Sanako Reacted is an AI-assisted digital language learning platform which enables the teacher to automatically evaluate assignments and exams, and to effectively monitor and guide student progress.



Sanako SLH-20 NEW **Professional** Headset

Designed to withstand the rigours of classroom life, our new standard **SLH-20 headset** has been introduced to accompany the Sanako SLH-07 Premium headset. Complete with side tone function, this robust headset is available with various termination options.



Sanako **Support** Language Conferences

Sanako UK is once again proud to sponsor the ALL (Association for Language Learning) and the ISMLA 2020 (Independent Schools' Modern Languages Association) conferences.

