

The Newsletter of SANAKO UK [www.sanako.co.uk](http://www.sanako.co.uk)

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## Tradition, excellence and innovation

**T**he University of Hull's friendly, popular and attractive campus has seen the addition of several of **Sanako's Study 1200** language labs over the past few months, heralding an exciting time for the provision of language teaching and learning.

There are a number of languages on offer in a variety of combinations, with the staff of Modern Languages and Cultures forming part of the wider School of Histories, Languages and Cultures. The school's blog highlights several success stories relating to language learning and teaching in Hull.\*

The University additionally offers places on its excellent **MA Translation Studies**, one of only a dozen postgraduate training programmes in the UK currently with European Commission (EMT) recognition. It is also home to the impressive Shoosmith Language Learning Centre. No surprise then to find that Professor Mozzon McPherson, Professor of Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching and Director of the Confucius Institute, will be using the new **Sanako Study 1200** system both in her teaching and as part of the Institute's innovative teaching of Chinese as a Foreign Language.

Now, as 2018 unfolds, Hull is seeing another cycle of renewed energies and language learning projects. Key to that renewal is the arrival and deployment of the **Sanako Study 1200** system with leadership

and training from Sanako staff. Current interdisciplinary research is being developed around issues of culture shock at the level of a new institutional and transnational digital pathways project designed to forge connections between Modern Languages and Cultures, the Confucius Institute, and other research areas in the social and natural sciences. Other research is focussed on multilingualism and connected to the AHRC's Open World Research Initiative. There is also accelerating dynamism in schools liaison across the East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire with, inter alia, an annual, inspirational, essay competition in Modern Languages and an annual Modern Languages teachers' day.

The Head of the School of Histories, Languages and Cultures, Professor Chris Harris, is rightly proud:

"The School only came into being in 2016 and staff in Modern Languages and Cultures are already driving forward the existing traditions of excellence in language learning and teaching at Hull with new transnational configurations. Research in the area of global popular culture has always been a clustered strength, and Hull's newly-founded Richard Hoggart Centre for Comparative Cultural Studies is an ideal home for staff, postgraduates and post-doctoral researchers to collaborate. Modern Languages staff are integrally involved".

In short, the vibrancy of the UK's



2017 City of Culture truly remains palpable in Hull, and the time is definitely right for a new **Sanako** educational and technological partnership with the staff in Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Hull.

\* <https://shlc.blog/2017/11/24/s-hlc-essay-competition-2017-reflections-from-our-french-language-prize-winner-roberta-hadgraft-hornsea-sixth-form/>

## King Edward's School, Bath - Improving student confidence for GCSE examinations

The ethos of King Edward's School, Bath, is one that encourages all pupils to play as hard as they work and to make the most of all the wonderful opportunities there, both in and out of the classroom, that enable them to grow and thrive within a supportive and caring framework. The school sets the bar high, but also gives pupils all the tools that they need to reach those ambitious standards.

One of the tools in heavy use at King Edward's School is the language laboratory - although now computer based, these systems have been essential to the MFL team since the days of early cassette-based systems. However time and technology moves on and the forward thinking school decided to make a digital leap of faith and update their existing systems to the latest **Sanako Study 1200** software only system.

Teaching staff believe that the **Sanako** installation has proved invaluable in running not just classes but also in preparing the students for the rigours



of the listening components of the examination. The lab has allowed students to practise in a way which replicates the examination experience, and staff recently began to use the playlist to release annotated PDF versions of past papers in advance, and allow students to use them to help with vocabulary. This cuts down on

class time used going through detailed texts together. Of course, the added bonus is that all files sent to the student playlist can then be saved in students' home area or on their memory sticks for future reference.

## A more intuitive upgrade helps GCSE preparation at Bradford Grammar School

Samantha Haslam - Head of Modern Languages, Bradford Grammar School



The Languages department at Bradford Grammar School upgraded to the **Sanako Study 1200** system in August 2017. Having used a previous version of the software for many years, we felt that it was time to upgrade and modernise our provision to be at the forefront of Teaching and Learning provision in Modern Languages. Our Sanako language laboratory is an

integral part of our department and all classes from Year 7 to Year 11 have at least one lesson in the laboratory per timetable cycle of 2 weeks. We have two suites; the larger is mainly used by KS3 & 4 students and the smaller ideally suits A Level study. A Level students have at least one lesson per week in the language laboratory, using it both to complement their language topics but also to further their IRP research.

**Sanako Study 1200** is a far more intuitive system than the previous version, and is better suited to both colleagues and technologically-adept students. Students continue to enjoy the pairwork and telephone activities, but love the new chatroom functions and the ability to work with different document types simultaneously. The ability to insert their answers into a pre-recorded audio file also smooths

the path to simultaneous speaking as part of the new GCSE, with students able to save a copy for their own records and re-record to improve where necessary. This works equally well for role plays and photo cards as for general conversation. We are moving towards using the software to conduct all of our internal speaking assessments to free up lesson time. Overall, having an upgraded **Sanako** system has revolutionised our use of technology and afforded students both access to better-differentiated tasks and the ability to work independently, and we look forward to integrating its usage further into our Schemes of Work as the year continues.

## An Invitation to Visit!

by: Yorke Menzies (Head of French) - Withington Girls' school



**Withington Girls' School is a leading independent day school for girls aged 7 to 18 in which some of the best academic results in the country are attained within a lively, happy and caring environment.**

Languages have always played an important part in the life of the school and, building on our showcase event in which we had invited alumnae from a variety of career paths to explain why languages had been a 'passport to a brighter future', it was time to look at updating our language laboratory - such an important resource for equipping girls with the necessary language skills for their careers.

We looked at all language laboratory providers on the market, but they could not match the expertise, reliability and reputation of Sanako and we even talked to schools whose IT departments had tried to create software which would mimic language laboratory functionality. Sanako's Study 1200 appeared to be the best fit as it would facilitate true independent learning and differentiation. Pupils can easily access a range of materials such as audio files, worksheets, web links to exercises on interactive text books, online material ... and work at their own speed. The possibility of allocating differentiated material to both support and challenge

individual students appealed to us as well as the fact the teacher can monitor progress, answer queries and provide individual support. We wanted to see these functions in action and so Sanako arranged for us to visit a number of schools using the Sanako Study 1200 software. We are grateful to the languages departments and students at *Uppingham School, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys* and *Stockport Grammar School* who invited us to spend time observing staff and generously answered our questions. The result is our impressive laboratory with bespoke furniture with pop up desks, provided by Zioxi. Our advice would be to spend time doing research, involve the whole of your languages department and IT support team and visit a number of different sites to talk to teachers using the software.

We could not wait to use the new software and thanks to our informative and empowering training sessions we were ready to experiment at the start of term in September. Pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 have enjoyed the challenge of a range of materials, and we have even

reduced our photocopying- always a bonus. Features such as **voice insert** have been put to good use to practise the new A level and GCSE photo cards and GCSE role plays. We have recorded the teacher's role and pupils enjoy working at their own pace, recording their own answers and listening back to them and monitoring their performance. A particular favourite is **telephone dialling** where pupils can choose who they work with. **Model imitation** has also proved invaluable when introducing new vocabulary and encouraging pupils to focus on their pronunciation skills. The **vocabulary test** feature is equally easy to use and personalise and is a useful lesson starter, where pupils love trying to beat the clock.

Throughout the installation and the first term we have been impressed by the professionalism and approachability of the Sanako technical team who have been prompt to answer queries and offer advice and guidance to ensure we have been able to maximise our use of the software.

**We are still at the start of our exciting journey but we are happy for you to contact us, or even visit our wonderful new language laboratory!**

## News in brief

### New collaboration announced

**Sanako** is pleased to announce a successful collaboration with conference technology provider Brähler ICS UK. The two companies have integrated their products to offer a bespoke interpretation suite which students on the MA in Interpreting at Queen's University Belfast are using to develop their skills. After winning a tender bid, Brähler and Sanako collaborated closely to design a hi-tech solution which provides students with sophisticated learning resources and a setting that reflects that of real-life multilingual conferences and seminars. Both are major benefits in preparing students for their chosen careers.

For more information, visit <http://www.sanako.com/en-gb/blog/>

### Sanako Pronounce Live

Have you tried out **Sanako's** website to support independent pronunciation practice? This innovative module for improving oral skills in a target language is a true online solution for pronunciation practice; no installation or downloads are needed.



**Copy and paste** text into the app, **listen** to the authentic pronunciation, then **repeat** what you hear. Ideal for speaking practice – sample it for free at [www.pronouncelive.com](http://www.pronouncelive.com)

### Conference Interpreting System module

Announcing **Sanako's** much-anticipated **Conference Interpreting System** module (CIS) for the Study range of software language centres! The module will seamlessly integrate into any existing Study 1200 Language Centre, or as a complete system, to offer full functionality of professional interpreter training systems in a software format and all the advantages this brings.

## Events

### ALL Language World, Hinckley – 23rd & 24th March 2018

**Sanako** is once again proud to be the major sponsor of this highly successful annual event. Organised by the Association for Language Learning, it takes place at Juries Inn, Hinckley Island, Leicestershire.

### ILILC8, The Ashcombe School, Surrey – 21st April 2018

Formerly held in Southampton, the ICT in Language Learning Conference is once again at The Ashcombe School courtesy of Helen Myers, and will be sponsored by **Sanako**.

### TILT event –University of Chester – 20th June 2018

A heads-up for readers in the North West and North Wales – **Sanako** will soon be advertising spaces for a free Technology in Language Teaching Event in Chester, with a focus on developing speaking and listening skills! Keep an eye out for information, or contact us to be on our mailing list.

To be kept updated check [www.sanako.co.uk](http://www.sanako.co.uk)

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