

MFL Centre of Excellence

Pupils at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, Barry were ecstatic to show off their language skills this week for the official opening of their new Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) facility by Huw Lewis (Mister for Education & Skills). Also in attendance were Jane Hutt (AM) and Councillor Chris Elmore as well as German, Spanish, French, and Italian nationals who were representing their countries and looking to advance the study of languages in the future.

During the summer Bryn Hafren was named as a "Centre of Excellence for MFL" for the Central South Consortium - an area that includes most schools in South Wales. The school will now host teachers from various schools to share the good practice that takes place in Bryn Hafren and help them to raise interest in MFL subjects.



Experts have warned that not regaining awareness of MFL would jeopardise the UK's economic prosperity, with GCSE's in foreign languages dropping from 55% in 1995 to just 22% in 2013. The Centre of Excellence was officially opened by Huw Lewis, Education Minister for Wales accompanied by Jane Hutt AM.

Bryn Hafren was bustling with activity, hosting staff from fellow schools in Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff as well as the Vale of Glamorgan. Each classroom had pupils demonstrating various techniques applied in their lesson such as matching up key phrases. The girls were also available to talk to the visitors about their MFL education.

Many of the girls have incorporated technology such as iPads into tasks to memorise the languages phrases by using an app to quiz them. Some of the pupils say that it helps them memorise phrases better than any other technique used. Others also used competition games with other groups to keep them on their toes.



Visitors were treated to performances demonstrating the vast array of talented pupils at the school. The choir, with 75 members performed songs in French and Spanish - all in 3 part harmony. There were performances from the Dance department and presentations made by some of the Language Ambassadors. Some of the refreshments were served in the

Food Technology department where pupils prepared croissants, crepes, frittata and patatas bravas!

Bryn Hafren's Head Teacher, Tyrone Davies stated, "I am delighted that so many people visited our school and were very complementary. I am pleased with the impression our girls and their hard work gave our

visitors. I know that this will have a positive impact on the MFL faculty and raise pupils' interest in foreign languages across South Wales. Our girls were a credit to Barry"

