

Expo is perfect for Transition. Find out why...

School: Meopham School, Gravesend, Kent

Pupils: 900, 11-18 year olds

Teacher: Pam Holmes, Head of MFL

Perfect for transition

We're finding more and more at Meopham School that children are coming into Year 7 with prior learning of a language at KS2. Usually they will have learned some basic vocabulary as well as topics such as my family, colours, etc. At KS2 pupils are given an awareness of a foreign language and a foreign culture and are keen to learn more when they arrive in KS3. Expo deals with this transition perfectly as it links everything together for pupils and adds more depth.

Flexible and increases motivation

Not only does Expo show pupils how to learn, it also enables them to see where their language learning is taking them. This increases pupils' motivation as it encourages them to try harder. Expo works well with my mixed ability classes as it introduces things simply then moves on to further activities that make good extension activities for the more able or more confident.

Encourages independent learning

Expo's Learning Skills and Thinking Skills in the Resource & Assessment File are excellent and really help pupils to understand how things link together.

Not only do they extend learning, they encourage pupils to properly think through what they've learned in order to find the right answer. Expo's mini-projects and assignments (Défis) in the Pupil Books and the Resource &

Assessment File have really helped to develop pupils' enquiry-based learning. What's more the children really love them!

Our Year 7 pupils had to carry out some research in order to produce a French ID card. They all did over and above what we asked because they enjoyed it so much, interviewing members of their family, etc. The Expo set homeworks have also been a huge success. Again, they encourage pupils to do more research and help to build on learning.

Caters for cross-curricular learning

For cross-curricular learning, we have been working with our Geography, Humanities and English Departments, and have used Expo to devise a travelogue, along the lines of a Bill Bryson book. Pupils had to pretend to visit a French town and describe what they saw, experiences of French culture etc. This was very challenging for the pupils but they really enjoyed it.

'I love Expo – Heinemann's courses always build on what's been published before and makes learning more relevant. Expo teaches children how to learn and how to enjoy their learning.'