

invite you to a regional challenge

MIND THE LANGUAGE GAP

**Tuesday 8th October at the University of Derby
or
Friday 11th October at the National College
for High Speed Rail in Doncaster**

This Business Language Champions initiative is a partnership event with the University of Derby, the National College for High Speed Rail, the Rail Alliance with the generous support of funding from the IET



Mind the Language Gap is a business challenge aimed at students studying French, German or Spanish in **Years 10 and 11**, who would like to find out about international opportunities in a major industry and put their language skills into practice. Students will also practise key employability skills.

It is open to all schools.

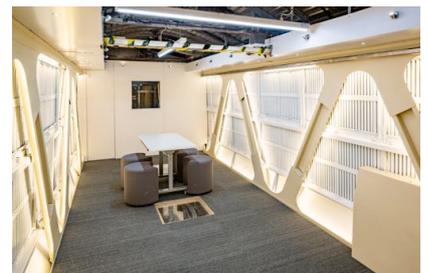
Overview

These are exciting times for the rail industry. Trains are getting faster and more sophisticated whilst challenging air travel to offer quick and easy journeys as well as offering a more environmentally friendly way of moving freight. The rail industry employs 190,000 people in the UK and with its many partnerships on the continent offers ample opportunity to use languages in a business context. Outside of Europe, investment by the Japanese, world famous for their bullet trains, offers significant interest further afield and for that reason we are including a Japanese taster in the afternoon. Both Derbyshire and Yorkshire are hubs for the rail industry in the UK with its many suppliers.

Outline of the day

The day will include:

- Keynote talk by Lucy Prior MBE of the Rail Alliance
- A business challenge based on the rail industry using French, German or Spanish, for which there will be a prize for the winners
- Language taster in Japanese
- A presentation by the students in their target language
- The opportunity to meet business people working internationally
- The Doncaster event will include a brief tour of the NCHSR workshop



Business Language Champions, members of the Rail Alliance and university students will be on hand to advise the students and help with language issues.



Who can take part?

You are invited to send one or more groups of **6 language students** from **Year 10 or 11** to take part. The students must all be learning **French, German or Spanish** and may be a mixture of learners of **different languages and different year groups**. *They will be allocated to teams working with students from other schools.*

Deadline: As many of our regional events are over-subscribed, please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment as we have a limited number of spaces, which will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Applications: Our booking system is now online on our website www.business-language-champions.co.uk under the events tab. By registering your interest on the website we can keep you informed of space available. To guarantee your place, please click on 'Book Place' and enter student names and confirmation of SLT permission to attend. You will need to create a Login so that you can return to your booking to fill in details such as transport and dietary requirements at a later stage.

Cost: £165 plus VAT per group of 6 students. Lunch will be included. We will issue the invoice once your booking contains student names and confirmation of SLT permission. Please note that once the invoice has been issued, the full £165 will be charged for cancellation unless the place can be filled by another school.

Timing: The day will run from 9.00a.m. (registration) for a 9.20 start to 3.30p.m

Preparation: We will send out some preparatory work for the students.

Checklist for applications:

- Names, year group and language(s) studied for each student
- Name, email and mobile number for the main contact
- Confirmation of SLT permission to attend



If you have any queries about this challenge please ring Sally Fagan on 01949 860167 or 07967 699614, or email sally@blcevents.co.uk

We would like to thank the University of Derby and the National College for High Speed Rail for hosting and the Rail Alliance for their support. We would also like to thank the Institution of Engineering and Technology for their funding.