



Session 3: Cross-curriculum à Music

1. Singing - rationale

See the slides from the presentation and use these to sell the message to your students (if you need to) that singing is an important learning strategy.

2. Singing and music for memory

There are many examples of this – one example is to use the Conga tune to teach the present tense verb paradigm for regular verbs in German. Start with 'wohnen' and then you have a ready made way to extend and develop their conjugation skills in a starter or plenary activity, by presenting them with a new (2-syllable) German verb and asking them to 'conga' it. They should do the pronoun gestures at the same time to keep making the link with meaning.

3. Singing for fun and pronunciation

At any point in the lesson, it can be fun to sing a song in the target language. However, it's not just fun. Singing along to a song forces you to pronounce quickly and in time and it thereby helps students to increase the speed with which they can pronounce words well. It makes pronunciation practice entertaining and enjoyable, which makes students actively want to do it.

4. Whole school dimension

Some way of involving several classes at one in a project with song can be an excellent way to get all the benefits of singing and at the same time develop confidence and performing skills. See the Spanglovision case study in your pack.

5. International links

Joint exchanges or visits that have a link with other curriculum areas have a lot to offer students in terms of cultural knowledge and breadth of experience. The one we started last year was a German-Music Exchange that saw students from Germany come over to us and do 2 x joint concerts. We returned a few months later to Germany and did the same. As well as the concerts, we did all the usual cultural visits and they had the family exchange experience too. The thing that the music brought was an interest in common, a joint purpose for the visit that was not merely improving language skills.