

P-05-821 Reintroduce educational support funding to MEAS and the TES to local authorities – Correspondence form petitioner to the Committee, 27.06.18

MEAS Black Minority Ethnic (BME) SUPPORT

MEAS focuses on raising the attainment and achievement of EM/EAL learners in NPTCBC. Interventions with BME pupils are a high priority for the team given BME pupils are likely to significantly underperform in the education system leading to lowered expectations and self-fulfilling prophecies of failure. Academics argue, however, that the failure is in the under-achievement of the system in providing for BME students. Bearing this in mind MEAS adopt a holistic and an individual approach to support for BME pupils. Every year we raise the status of the BME community by celebrating the achievements and success of Black writers, musicians, artists, performers and individuals during Black History Month. We try to encourage schools to involve their BME children in our event and to bring any pupils they think would benefit from an event which profiles positive black role models for young people within Neath and Port Talbot.

The range of activities facilitated by MEAS in schools during Black History Month includes our annual celebratory concert which on average involves the participation of 12 schools (including a special school and Welsh Medium schools); public art displays; participation by NPT schools on the national stage; displays in school; school assemblies; dance workshops; yoga workshops; visits from prominent Black high achievers. As a result of BHM workshops, MEAS has also produced an educational resource pack which was researched in collaboration with learners from St Joseph's Catholic School and 6th Form, and is augmented each year and has been lauded as an example of best practice. MEAS receive Arts Council funding through the former Black History Wales Association, now under the umbrella of Race Council Cymru. MEAS collaborate with many BME organisations to ensure a joined up approach to supporting BME learners.

Individual academic support for BME pupils has seen significant success; two of our formerly supported pupils have just successfully completed degree courses and one has just started on a degree course this academic year. The following case study highlights the success of our support. One pupil gained an E grade at GCSE English and was told by his school that he could be entered for the exam again but could not retake his controlled assessments worth 60% of the overall mark. Without the

opportunity to retake controlled assessments the pupil was destined to fail; MEAS entered the pupil in a College English GCSE class, tutored the pupil intensively at his school resulting in him attaining a C grade. This enabled the pupil to meet the university entrance requirements for a degree course which he has just completed. His Mother has told MEAS that without our intervention he would never have had the support or confidence to pursue his English qualification, go on to College and apply for University. Significant collaborative work is undertaken with the schools and college to ensure that learners achievement and wellbeing are supported and to ensure that these BME learners continue to thrive and do not become NEET.

First/Home language qualifications supported by the MEAS team

Neath Port Talbot LA currently have pupils who speak over 63 first/home languages other than English and/or Welsh. Provision to support pupils who speak English as Additional Language (EAL) to obtain a GCSE/AS/A2 qualification in their home language can be a difficult and challenging task, considering the size of the core MEAS team, funded through the EIG grant.

However, we recognise the value and the ethos of the first/home languages of our pupils and nurture the importance of maintaining the language as a life skill and a way of appreciating our multilinguistic community.

We work collaboratively with the all Comprehensive schools in our Local Authority, including the Welsh Medium Comprehensive school, together with Neath Port Talbot College, to recognise the importance and value of the needs of the pupils who speak another language/ languages at home by giving them the opportunity and entering them to sit the Home language examination.

The MEAS Team have provided support and resource materials to those schools and individual pupils who expressed their interest in accessing the GCSE, AS and A Level qualification in their home languages.

In recent years, the MEAS Team members provided support to pupils who speak another language at home to access GCSE qualification in: Polish, Mandarin, Arabic, Russian, Japanese, Tamil, and A/AS Level in Polish.

All grades range from A* to A Grades.

Last year MEAS supported a Laboratory Technician (and parent of an EAL pupil) from the Polish community, who works in one of our Comprehensive schools (St Joseph's School and Six Form) to obtain GCSE and AS in Polish in which she was awarded A Grades. She continues to study for A Level which she hopes to sit next year.

Home language GCSE, AS and A Level qualifications help EAL/EM learners develop their home language skills and build a broad understanding of the culture of the countries and communities they come from.

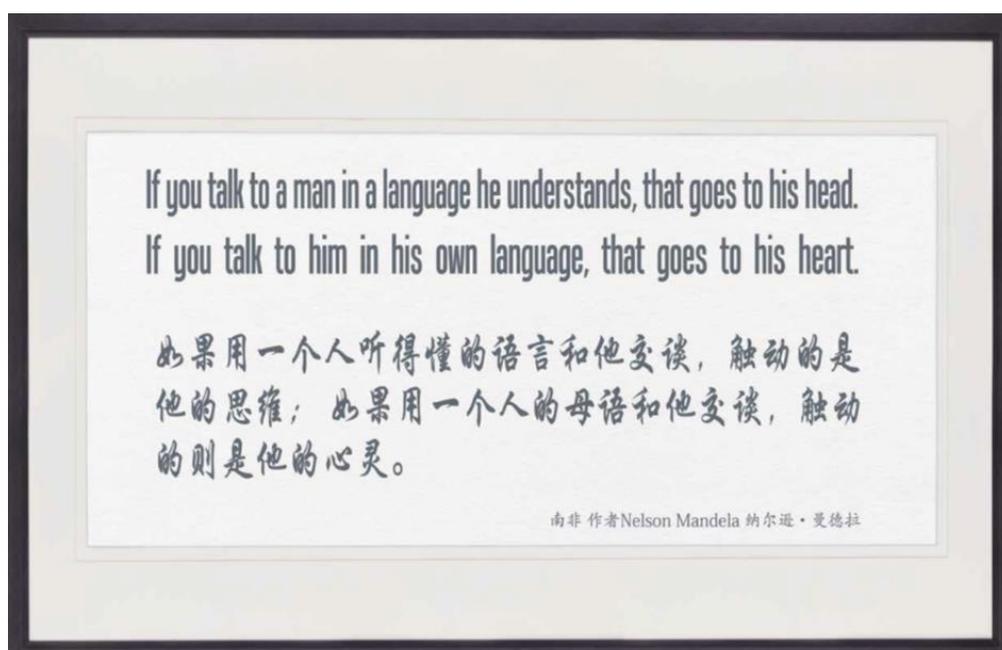
It encourages enjoyment of staying in touch with the language they speak at home and the recognition that language skills will enable them to take their place in a

multi-lingual global society. It also raises the status of community languages in our schools and wider community.

The number of EAL/EM learners and their successful grades have had an enormous impact on school results as well as on life and the future of the learners themselves by providing them with enhanced College and University choices or job opportunities.

EAL pupils (who are or have received MEAS support) who are currently studying in College or at the University benefit from their additional Home Language GCSE/A Level qualification. Further Education institutions, where former NPT EAL learners attend, have included NPT College Group, Southampton University, Cardiff University and Trinity St David.

As with our other groups of learners. ie. EAL, BME, Chinese EM learners, training is available from MEAS to schools, to help them build capacity for supporting first/home language examination courses. Schools have been encouraged to join up to teach learners from different schools to meet in one school to have support for examinations. ie. St Joseph's, Ystalyfera, Dwr y Felin and Llangatwg schools. MEAS multilingual staff provide interpreting and translating as part of their teaching role and have supported other NPT services and other LA MEAS services with their needs. Languages currently available on the team are the main languages spoken by our EAL learners: Bengali/Sylheti, Polish, Mandarin and Cantonese, Arabic, Romanian. We also employ a Bulgarian speaker.





WHAT WILL GO IF MEAS GOES

1. Meeting the needs of learners/schools (bespoke to NPTCBC) supporting English as an Additional Language and enabling access to the academic language required for achievement in other academic subject areas i.e. Mathematics, Science, English Literature, Design and Technology. Diverse Specialist Trained and Qualified (Degree and Masters) teaching and support staff (Many of whom were teachers in their home countries and can support learners with the following Languages: Polish, Bengali/Sylheti, Mandarin/Cantonese, Arabic and Romanian. (4.3 Full Time Equivalent Staff). NPT CBC has over **1300** Ethnic Minority and English as an Additional Language Learners and over **63** different Languages other than English or Welsh. WG Grant ranged between £70 K to £140 annually since 2008.

2. Collaborative planning - support for schools/Programmes of Work

3. Training and development of school staff (additionally training on supporting Refugees for the team and schools SMT)

4. Developed partnership with the Dwr y Felin cluster group of schools (SMT) and Bae Baglan SENCO cluster group of schools to share up to date EAL pedagogy and good practice to ensure EM/EAL learners attainment

5 Translating and interpreting (including use of own casual interpreters and outside translation services)

6. Induction Meetings with parent/carers and other home/school liaison activities, such as the newly formed Bangladesh Parents forum in Central Primary school and signposting ESOL



WHAT WILL GO IF MEAS GOES

8. Assessment in first/home language

Since 2014 MEAS Learners have achieved A*-C in the following Home Languages

Polish GCSE (8 A*-A & 1C) Russian GCSE (1 A)

Polish AS (5 A* & 1 A) Arabic GCSE (3 A & 3A*)

Polish A2 (4 A & 2Bs) Mandarin GCSE (5 A*)

Spanish GCSE (1 A) Greek GCSE (1 A)

9. Learners encouraged to use first languages and gain home language qualifications – GCSE, AS and A level

and events

10. Working with community language schools and clubs

Pupils join other schools to sit Home Language exams

7. Transition support for learners between Key Phase/Stages, post 16 and University (Currently 5 in University, supported from School

Facilitate the British Council Chinese Language Assistant Programme in South Port Talbot with partner Primary and Secondary schools in order to

13 Promoting Cultural diversity/languages reflected in the curriculum through teaching and learning, Partnership working local community groups, nationally and internationally



WHAT WILL GO IF MEAS GOES

14 Accurate EM/EAL data collection – Stages of English, Ethnicity and first/home languages

Numbers of EM/EAL Learners have continued to increase annually. Now reaching 1300 +

Top Eleven Languages spoken are 1. Polish (85) 2. Bengali, Telugu, Hindi, Panjabi, Gujarati, Pashto & Urdu (208) 3. Mandarin/Cantonese (65) 3. Tagalog/Filipino (43) 4. Arabic (40) 5. Romanian (36) 6 Thai (32) 7. Portuguese (23) 8. Hungarian (21) 9. Turkish (21) 10. Tamil (20) 11. Bulgarian (8)

15 Work in partnership with Black History Wales / Race Council Cymru and Primary and Secondary schools to participate in Black History Month and celebrate Black Minority Ethnic achievement in NPT

17 Work in partnership with other local authority participation of supported EM/EAL learners in L Day events

18. The MEAS work with at least 40 Primary schools annually, either giving direct or indirect support. In addition

MEAS work with all Secondary Schools annually (9) as well as learners attending Neath Port Talbot College

16 MEAS have successfully bid for a Chinese Teacher every year via the British Council to work with schools within the LA to promote Chinese Culture. MEAS has been fortunate to host 12 Chinese Teachers to date, who have visited over 40 different schools and taught thousands of children

as working with their parents.

20. Samples of the work we do with EM/EAL learners to diversify their backgrounds and encourage them to take part and understand the importance of growing up in a multi-cultural society.



WHAT WILL GO IF MEAS GOES

21. Black Minority Ethnic Learners at risk of becoming NEET are supported with various academic subjects, learning and employment pathways and are involved in workshops with high achieving black authors and celebrities. All school communities benefit from this high profile given to BME learners.

22. Proactive Partnership working with various BME organisations which benefits all learners/families/school: NPT City of Sanctuary , Ethnic Youth Support Team, Swansea Bay Community Cohesion, NPT BME Association/Forum, Show Racism the Red Card, South Wales Police Hate Crime Officers and Black History Month Wales/Race Council Cymru

Working to Raise the Attainment of Black and Minority Ethnic Pupils and those with English as an Additional Language



WHAT WILL GO IF MEAS GOES

